

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 272 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY HESS, BAKER, FLECK, MAJOR, CALTAGIRONE, CARROLL, CAUSER, COHEN, D. COSTA, J. EVANS, GOODMAN, GROVE, HARKINS, HARRIS, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KOTIK, KULA, MAHONEY, MILLARD, PEIFER, PICKETT, RAPP, SWANGER, TALLMAN, YOUNGBLOOD, MOUL, BENNINGHOFF, MURT, KAVULICH, DENLINGER, BRADFORD, TRUITT, BRIGGS, MILLER, SCAVELLO, WATSON, GABLER, KILLION, FREEMAN, M. SMITH, HORNAMAN, HENNESSEY, R. BROWN, BEAR, PAYNE, CONKLIN, STEVENSON, PERRY, MAHER, ROCK, SAYLOR, HARPER AND BROOKS, JANUARY 27, 2011

SENATOR D. WHITE, BANKING AND INSURANCE, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 15, 2012

AN ACT

1 ~~Establishing a task force on Lyme disease and related maladies;~~ ←
2 ~~providing for powers and duties of the task force, the~~
3 ~~Department of Health, the Department of Conservation and~~
4 ~~Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission and~~
5 ~~for required coverage; and executing prevention and education~~
6 ~~strategies.~~
7 ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON LYME DISEASE AND RELATED MALADIES; ←
8 AND PROVIDING FOR POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE, THE
9 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND
10 NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION TO
11 EXECUTE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION STRATEGIES.
12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:
14 ~~Section 1. Short title.~~ ←
15 ~~This act shall be known and may be cited as the Lyme and~~
16 ~~Related Tick Borne Disease Surveillance, Education, Prevention~~
17 ~~and Treatment Act.~~
18 ~~Section 2. Findings.~~

1 ~~The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:~~

2 ~~(1) Lyme disease and other tick borne diseases are~~  
3 ~~carried primarily by ticks and pose a serious threat to the~~  
4 ~~health and quality of life of many citizens of this~~  
5 ~~Commonwealth.~~

6 ~~(2) The most common way to acquire Lyme disease is to be~~  
7 ~~bitten by a tick that carries the spirochete.~~

8 ~~(3) In 2009, 5,722 confirmed cases of Lyme disease were~~  
9 ~~reported in this Commonwealth, the highest number of cases~~  
10 ~~reported in any state and representing a 76% increase since~~  
11 ~~2006. In 2011, provisional numbers of 7,484 cases confirm~~  
12 ~~this ongoing upward trend.~~

13 ~~(4) These trends illustrate the World Health~~  
14 ~~Organization's (WHO) projections through 2010. The WHO states~~  
15 ~~that Lyme disease will increasingly become a public health~~  
16 ~~threat in the United States. Pennsylvania needs to be~~  
17 ~~prepared to deal with this trend, which is already being~~  
18 ~~observed in Pennsylvania's statistics.~~

19 ~~(5) Lyme disease is most prevalent in southeastern~~  
20 ~~Pennsylvania, but it is found across this Commonwealth.~~

21 ~~(6) With proper precautions taken while engaged in~~  
22 ~~outdoor activities, people can greatly reduce their chances~~  
23 ~~of tick pathogen transmission by making sure that frequent~~  
24 ~~tick checks are made and ticks are removed and disposed of~~  
25 ~~promptly and properly.~~

26 ~~(7) The early clinical diagnosis and appropriate~~  
27 ~~treatment of these tick borne disorders and diseases can~~  
28 ~~greatly reduce the risks of continued symptoms which can~~  
29 ~~affect every system and organ of the human body and often~~  
30 ~~every aspect of life.~~

~~(8) Left untreated, Lyme disease can cause a number of signs and symptoms which can become quite severe.~~

~~Section 3. Legislative intent.~~

~~It is the intent of the General Assembly:~~

~~(1) To provide the public with information and education to create greater public awareness of the dangers of and measures available to prevent, diagnose and treat Lyme disease and related maladies.~~

~~(2) To ensure that:~~

~~(i) Licensees, insurers, patients and governmental agencies are educated about treatment options.~~

~~(ii) Licensees provide patients with sufficient information about treatment options to enable patients to make an informed choice as part of informed consent and respect the autonomy of that choice.~~

~~(iii) Pennsylvania government agencies provide unbiased information regarding treatment options.~~

~~Section 4. Definitions.~~

~~The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:~~

~~"Board." The Pennsylvania State Board of Medicine, the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine and the State Board of Nursing.~~

~~"Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.~~

~~"Licensee." A licensed physician, a physician's assistant or certified registered nurse practitioner or other licensed health-care professional.~~

~~"Long term antibiotic or antimicrobial therapy." Administration of oral, intramuscular or intravenous antibiotics or antimicrobial medications, singly or in combination, for~~

1 ~~periods of more than four weeks.~~

2 ~~"Lyme disease." The clinical diagnosis of a patient by a~~  
3 ~~licensed physician or certified registered nurse practitioner of~~  
4 ~~the presence of signs or symptoms compatible with acute, late~~  
5 ~~stage, persistent infection with *Borrelia burgdorferi* or~~  
6 ~~complications related to such infection or with such other~~  
7 ~~strains of *Borrelia* that are recognized by the Centers for~~  
8 ~~Disease Control and Prevention as a cause of Lyme disease. The~~  
9 ~~term includes infection which meets the surveillance criteria~~  
10 ~~set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and~~  
11 ~~other acute and persistent manifestations of such an infection~~  
12 ~~as determined by a physician.~~

13 ~~"Related tick borne illnesses." Cases of Bartonellosis,~~  
14 ~~Babesiosis/Piroplasmosis, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis and other~~  
15 ~~tick transmissible illnesses as may be empirically associated~~  
16 ~~with Lyme disease.~~

17 ~~"Secretary." The Secretary of Health of the Commonwealth.~~

18 ~~"State officials." The term includes the Secretary of~~  
19 ~~Environmental Protection.~~

20 ~~"Task force." The task force established by this act.~~

21 ~~"Therapeutic purpose." The use of antibiotics to control a~~  
22 ~~patient's symptoms or signs determined by a physician as~~  
23 ~~reasonably related to Lyme disease and its sequelae or related~~  
24 ~~tick borne illnesses.~~

25 ~~Section 5. Task force.~~

26 ~~(a) Establishment. The department shall establish a task~~  
27 ~~force on Lyme disease and related tick borne diseases.~~

28 ~~(b) Purpose. The task force shall investigate and make~~  
29 ~~recommendations to the department regarding:~~

30 ~~(1) The surveillance and prevention of Lyme disease and~~

1 ~~related tick borne illnesses in this Commonwealth.~~

2 ~~(2) Raising awareness about the long term effects of the~~  
3 ~~misdiagnosis of Lyme disease.~~

4 ~~(3) The development of a program of general public and~~  
5 ~~health care professional information and education regarding~~  
6 ~~Lyme disease which shall include the broad spectrum of~~  
7 ~~scientific and treatment options regarding all stages of Lyme~~  
8 ~~disease and related tick borne illnesses.~~

9 ~~(4) Cooperation with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to~~  
10 ~~disseminate the information required under paragraph (3) to~~  
11 ~~licensees of the commission and the general public.~~

12 ~~(5) Cooperation with the Department of Conservation and~~  
13 ~~Natural Resources to disseminate the information required~~  
14 ~~under paragraph (3) to the general public and visitors of~~  
15 ~~State parks and lands.~~

16 ~~(6) Cooperation with the Department of Environmental~~  
17 ~~Protection to test ticks and provide results and to publish~~  
18 ~~on its publicly accessible Internet website.~~

19 ~~(7) Cooperation with the Department of Education to:~~

20 ~~(i) Disseminate the information required under~~  
21 ~~paragraph (3) to school administrators, faculty, staff,~~  
22 ~~parents, guardians and students.~~

23 ~~(ii) Determine the role schools may play in the~~  
24 ~~prevention of Lyme disease, including, but not limited~~  
25 ~~to, prompt removal and reporting of tick removals to~~  
26 ~~State officials.~~

27 ~~(iii) Update policies to recognize signs or symptoms~~  
28 ~~of Lyme disease and related tick borne illnesses as~~  
29 ~~health impairments potentially requiring accommodations.~~

30 ~~(c) Composition. The task force shall be composed of the~~

1 following individuals:

2 ~~(1) The Secretary of Health or a designee.~~

3 ~~(2) The Insurance Commissioner or a designee.~~

4 ~~(3) The Secretary of Education or a designee.~~

5 ~~(4) The Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forestry in the~~  
6 ~~Department of Conservation and Natural Resources or a~~  
7 ~~designee.~~

8 ~~(5) The Director of the Bureau of Information and~~  
9 ~~Education of the Pennsylvania Game Commission or a designee.~~

10 ~~(6) Two physicians licensed in this Commonwealth, who~~  
11 ~~are knowledgeable concerning treatment of Lyme disease and~~  
12 ~~related tick borne illnesses and who are members of the~~  
13 ~~International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society.~~

14 ~~(7) Two physicians licensed in this Commonwealth who are~~  
15 ~~knowledgeable concerning treatment of Lyme disease and~~  
16 ~~related tick borne illnesses who are members of the~~  
17 ~~Infectious Disease Society of America.~~

18 ~~(8) An epidemiologist licensed in this Commonwealth~~  
19 ~~having expertise in spirochetes and related infectious~~  
20 ~~diseases.~~

21 ~~(9) Two individuals representing Lyme disease patient~~  
22 ~~groups who may be a Lyme disease patient or a family member~~  
23 ~~of a Lyme disease patient.~~

24 ~~(10) One individual who is a Lyme disease patient or a~~  
25 ~~family member of a Lyme disease patient.~~

26 ~~(11) Two registered nurses licensed in this~~  
27 ~~Commonwealth, one of which should be a certified registered~~  
28 ~~nurse practitioner and both of whom are knowledgeable~~  
29 ~~concerning Lyme disease and related tick borne illnesses.~~

30 ~~(12) The Director of Vector Management of the Department~~

1 ~~of Environmental Protection.~~

2 ~~(13) An entomologist with the Department of Entomology~~  
3 ~~of The Pennsylvania State University who has experience in~~  
4 ~~tick identification and tick borne diseases.~~

5 ~~(14) A registered school nurse licensed in this~~  
6 ~~Commonwealth who is knowledgeable concerning Lyme disease and~~  
7 ~~tick borne illnesses.~~

8 ~~(15) Two veterinarians licensed in this Commonwealth, at~~  
9 ~~least one of whom is a veterinary epidemiologist and both of~~  
10 ~~whom are knowledgeable concerning Lyme disease and related~~  
11 ~~tick borne illnesses.~~

12 ~~(d) Meetings.~~

13 ~~(1) Within 45 days of the effective date of this act,~~  
14 ~~the Secretary of Health shall appoint the members of the task~~  
15 ~~force. The Secretary of Health shall appoint a chairman of~~  
16 ~~the task force.~~

17 ~~(2) The task force shall convene within 90 days of the~~  
18 ~~effective date of this act and shall meet quarterly.~~

19 ~~(3) The task force shall issue a report with~~  
20 ~~recommendations to the Secretary of Health within one year of~~  
21 ~~its first meeting. The report shall also be transmitted to~~  
22 ~~the relevant committees of the Senate and the House of~~  
23 ~~Representatives. Nothing in this act shall prohibit the task~~  
24 ~~force from making interim reports, taking agreed upon~~  
25 ~~immediate actions or responding to requests for such reports.~~

26 ~~(e) Compensation and expenses. The members of the task~~  
27 ~~force shall receive no compensation for their services but shall~~  
28 ~~be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in~~  
29 ~~performance of their duties. Reimbursement shall be provided by~~  
30 ~~the department.~~

1 ~~(f) Department. The department shall:~~

2 ~~(1) Develop a program of general public and health care~~  
3 ~~professional information and education regarding Lyme disease~~  
4 ~~which shall include the broad spectrum of scientific and~~  
5 ~~treating options regarding all stages of Lyme disease and~~  
6 ~~related tick borne illnesses.~~

7 ~~(2) Develop an active tick collection, testing and~~  
8 ~~surveillance program in cooperation with the Department of~~  
9 ~~Environmental Protection to provide a better understanding~~  
10 ~~of, including, but not limited to, the full range of tick~~  
11 ~~borne diseases, geographic hot spots and levels of~~  
12 ~~infectivity to be used in targeting prevention and education~~  
13 ~~efforts. This effort may include veterinary data on tick~~  
14 ~~borne disease prevention, specifically dogs and horses and~~  
15 ~~other animals as the Centers for Disease Control and~~  
16 ~~Prevention have recommended.~~

17 ~~(3) Cooperate with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to~~  
18 ~~disseminate the information required under paragraph (1) to~~  
19 ~~licensees of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the general~~  
20 ~~public.~~

21 ~~(4) Cooperate with the Department of Conservation and~~  
22 ~~Natural Resources to disseminate the information required~~  
23 ~~under paragraph (1) to the general public and visitors of~~  
24 ~~State parks and lands.~~

25 ~~(5) Cooperate with the professional associations of~~  
26 ~~health care professionals to provide the education program~~  
27 ~~for professionals required under paragraph (1).~~

28 ~~(6) Cooperate with the Department of Education to:~~

29 ~~(i) Disseminate the information under paragraph (1)~~  
30 ~~to school administrators, school nurses, faculty and~~



1 ~~staff, parents, guardians and students.~~

2 ~~(ii) Determine what role schools may play in the~~  
3 ~~prevention of Lyme disease, including, but not limited~~  
4 ~~to, prompt removal and reporting of tick removals to~~  
5 ~~State officials.~~

6 ~~(iii) Update policies to recognize signs or symptoms~~  
7 ~~of Lyme disease and related tick borne illnesses as~~  
8 ~~health conditions potentially requiring accommodations.~~

9 ~~(7) Cooperate with the Department of Environmental~~  
10 ~~Protection to publish and make available on its publicly~~  
11 ~~accessible Internet website the information developed under~~  
12 ~~paragraph (2) to health care professionals and the general~~  
13 ~~public.~~

14 ~~(8) Cooperate with The Pennsylvania State University,~~  
15 ~~Department of Entomology, Cooperative Extension Program for~~  
16 ~~Integrated Pest Management, to disseminate educational~~  
17 ~~resources about ticks, related diseases and integrated pest~~  
18 ~~management for disease prevention as required under paragraph~~  
19 ~~(1) to health care professionals and the general public.~~

20 ~~(9) Identify and apply for public and private funding in~~  
21 ~~order to carry out the provisions of this act.~~

22 ~~Section 6. Required coverage.~~

23 ~~(a) Tick borne illnesses. Except as provided in subsection~~  
24 ~~(b), every health care policy which is delivered, issued for~~  
25 ~~delivery, renewed, extended or modified in this Commonwealth by~~  
26 ~~a health insurer must cover prescribed treatment for Lyme~~  
27 ~~disease or related tick borne illnesses if the diagnosis and~~  
28 ~~treatment plan are documented in the patient's medical record,~~  
29 ~~and it is documented in the patient's medical record that the~~  
30 ~~patient has been properly informed of multiple standards of~~

1 ~~care, risks and benefits and able to exercise informed consent.~~  
2 ~~Such treatment plans may include long term therapies, long term~~  
3 ~~antibiotic or antimicrobial therapy and treatment as prescribed~~  
4 ~~by the patient's attending physician.~~

5 ~~(b) Exception. Subsection (a) shall not apply to any of the~~  
6 ~~following types of insurance:~~

7 ~~(1) Hospital indemnity.~~

8 ~~(2) Accident.~~

9 ~~(3) Specified disease.~~

10 ~~(4) Disability income.~~

11 ~~(5) Dental.~~

12 ~~(6) Vision.~~

13 ~~(7) Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed~~  
14 ~~Services (CHAMPUS) supplement.~~

15 ~~(8) Medicare supplement.~~

16 ~~(9) Long term care.~~

17 ~~(10) Other limited insurance benefit plans.~~

18 ~~Section 7. Effective date.~~

19 ~~This act shall take effect July 1, 2013.~~

20 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

21 THIS ACT SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE LYME AND  
22 RELATED TICK-BORNE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE, EDUCATION, PREVENTION  
23 AND TREATMENT ACT.

24 SECTION 2. FINDINGS.

25 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

26 (1) LYME DISEASE AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES ARE  
27 CARRIED PRIMARILY BY TICKS AND POSE A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE  
28 HEALTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF MANY CITIZENS OF THIS  
29 COMMONWEALTH.

30 (2) THE MOST COMMON WAY TO ACQUIRE LYME DISEASE IS TO BE



1 BITTEN BY A TICK THAT CARRIES THE SPIROCHETE.

2 (3) IN 2009, 5,722 CASES OF LYME DISEASE WERE REPORTED  
3 IN THIS COMMONWEALTH, THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED IN  
4 ANY STATE, AND REPRESENTING A 76% INCREASE SINCE 2006. IN  
5 2010, PROVISIONAL NUMBERS OF 6,277 CASES, CONFIRM THIS  
6 ONGOING UPWARD TREND.

7 (4) THESE TRENDS ILLUSTRATE THE WORLD HEALTH  
8 ORGANIZATION'S (WHO) PROJECTIONS THROUGH 2100. THE WHO STATES  
9 THAT LYME DISEASE WILL INCREASINGLY BECOME A PUBLIC HEALTH  
10 THREAT IN THE UNITED STATES. PENNSYLVANIA NEEDS TO BE  
11 PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THIS TREND, WHICH IS ALREADY BEING  
12 OBSERVED IN PENNSYLVANIA'S STATISTICS.

13 (5) LYME DISEASE IS MOST PREVALENT IN SOUTHEASTERN  
14 PENNSYLVANIA, BUT IT IS FOUND ACROSS THIS COMMONWEALTH.

15 (6) WITH PROPER PRECAUTIONS TAKEN WHILE ENGAGED IN  
16 OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES, PEOPLE CAN GREATLY REDUCE THEIR CHANCES  
17 OF TICK PATHOGEN TRANSMISSION BY MAKING SURE THAT FREQUENT  
18 TICK CHECKS ARE MADE AND TICKS ARE REMOVED AND DISPOSED OF  
19 PROMPTLY AND PROPERLY.

20 (7) THE EARLY CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS AND APPROPRIATE  
21 TREATMENT OF THESE TICK-BORNE DISORDERS AND DISEASES CAN  
22 GREATLY REDUCE THE RISKS OF CONTINUED SYMPTOMS WHICH CAN  
23 AFFECT EVERY SYSTEM AND ORGAN OF THE HUMAN BODY AND OFTEN  
24 EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE.

25 (8) LEFT UNTREATED, LYME DISEASE CAN CAUSE A NUMBER OF  
26 SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS WHICH CAN BECOME QUITE SEVERE.

27 SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.

28 IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

29 (1) TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH INFORMATION AND EDUCATION  
30 TO CREATE GREATER PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF AND

1 MEASURES AVAILABLE TO PREVENT, DIAGNOSE AND TREAT LYME  
2 DISEASE AND RELATED MALADIES.

3 (2) TO ENSURE THAT:

4 (I) LICENSEES, INSURERS, PATIENTS AND GOVERNMENTAL  
5 AGENCIES ARE EDUCATED ABOUT TREATMENT OPTIONS.

6 (II) LICENSEES PROVIDE PATIENTS WITH SUFFICIENT  
7 INFORMATION ABOUT TREATMENT OPTIONS TO ENABLE PATIENTS TO  
8 MAKE AN INFORMED CHOICE AS PART OF INFORMED CONSENT AND  
9 TO RESPECT THE AUTONOMY OF THAT CHOICE.

10 (III) PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PROVIDE  
11 UNBIASED INFORMATION REGARDING TREATMENT OPTIONS.

12 SECTION 4. DEFINITIONS.

13 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS ACT SHALL  
14 HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
15 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

16 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

17 "LICENSEE." A LICENSED PHYSICIAN, A PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT, A  
18 CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER OR OTHER LICENSED HEALTH  
19 CARE PROFESSIONAL.

20 "LYME DISEASE." THE CLINICAL DIAGNOSIS OF A PATIENT BY A  
21 LICENSED PHYSICIAN OR CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER OF  
22 THE PRESENCE OF SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS COMPATIBLE WITH ACUTE, LATE-  
23 STAGE, PERSISTENT INFECTION WITH BORRELIA BURGDORFERI OR  
24 COMPLICATIONS RELATED TO SUCH INFECTION OR WITH SUCH OTHER  
25 STRAINS OF BORRELIA THAT ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE CENTERS FOR  
26 DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION AS A CAUSE OF LYME DISEASE. THE  
27 TERM INCLUDES INFECTION THAT MEETS THE SURVEILLANCE CRITERIA  
28 ESTABLISHED BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION  
29 AND OTHER ACUTE AND PERSISTENT MANIFESTATIONS OF SUCH AN  
30 INFECTION AS DETERMINED BY A PHYSICIAN.

1 "RELATED TICK-BORNE ILLNESS." A CASE OF BARTONELLA,  
2 BABESIOSIS/PIROPLASMOSIS, ANAPLASMOSIS, EHRLICHIOSIS OR OTHER  
3 TICK-TRANSMISSIBLE ILLNESS. THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE LYME  
4 DISEASE.

5 "SECRETARY." THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

6 "STATE OFFICIALS." THE TERM INCLUDES THE SECRETARY OF  
7 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

8 "TASK FORCE." THE TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED BY THIS ACT.  
9 SECTION 5. TASK FORCE.

10 (A) ESTABLISHMENT.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A TASK  
11 FORCE ON LYME DISEASE AND RELATED TICK-BORNE DISEASES.

12 (B) PURPOSE.--THE TASK FORCE SHALL INVESTIGATE AND MAKE  
13 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT REGARDING:

14 (1) THE SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION OF LYME DISEASE AND  
15 RELATED TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH.

16 (2) RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF THE  
17 MISDIAGNOSIS OF LYME DISEASE.

18 (3) DEVELOPMENT OF A PROGRAM OF GENERAL PUBLIC AND  
19 HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REGARDING  
20 LYME DISEASE WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE BROAD SPECTRUM OF  
21 SCIENTIFIC AND TREATMENT OPTIONS REGARDING ALL STAGES OF LYME  
22 DISEASE AND RELATED TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES.

23 (4) COOPERATION WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION TO  
24 DISSEMINATE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) TO  
25 LICENSEES OF THE COMMISSION AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

26 (5) COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND  
27 NATURAL RESOURCES TO DISSEMINATE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED  
28 UNDER PARAGRAPH (3) TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND VISITORS OF  
29 STATE PARKS AND LANDS.

30 (6) COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO:

1 (I) DISSEMINATE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER  
2 PARAGRAPH (3) TO SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY AND  
3 STAFF, PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS.

4 (II) DETERMINE WHAT ROLE SCHOOLS MAY PLAY IN THE  
5 PREVENTION OF LYME DISEASE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED  
6 TO, PROMPT REMOVAL AND REPORTING OF TICK REMOVALS TO  
7 STATE OFFICIALS.

8 (III) UPDATE POLICIES TO RECOGNIZE SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS  
9 OF LYME DISEASE AND RELATED TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES AS  
10 HEALTH CONDITIONS POTENTIALLY REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS.

11 (7) COOPERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
12 PROTECTION TO TEST TICKS AND PROVIDE RESULTS AND TO PUBLISH  
13 INFECTION RATES ON ITS PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.

14 (C) COMPOSITION.--THE TASK FORCE SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE  
15 FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

16 (1) THE SECRETARY OR A DESIGNEE.

17 (2) THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH OR A DESIGNEE.

18 (3) THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION OR A DESIGNEE.

19 (4) THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR PARKS AND FORESTRY IN THE  
20 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES OR A  
21 DESIGNEE.

22 (5) THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF INFORMATION AND  
23 EDUCATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION OR A DESIGNEE.

24 (6) TWO PHYSICIANS LICENSED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH WHO ARE  
25 KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING TREATMENT OF LYME DISEASE AND  
26 RELATED TICK-BORNE ILLNESS AND WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE  
27 INTERNATIONAL LYME AND ASSOCIATED DISEASES SOCIETY.

28 (7) TWO PHYSICIANS LICENSED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH WHO ARE  
29 KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING TREATMENT OF LYME DISEASE AND  
30 RELATED TICK-BORNE ILLNESS AND WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE

1 INFECTIOUS DISEASES SOCIETY OF AMERICA.

2 (8) AN EPIDEMIOLOGIST LICENSED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH WHO  
3 HAS EXPERTISE IN SPIROCHETES AND RELATED INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

4 (9) TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO REPRESENT LYME DISEASE PATIENT  
5 GROUPS WHO MAY BE A LYME DISEASE PATIENT OR A FAMILY MEMBER  
6 OF A LYME DISEASE PATIENT.

7 (10) ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO IS A LYME DISEASE PATIENT OR  
8 FAMILY MEMBER OF A LYME DISEASE PATIENT.

9 (11) TWO REGISTERED NURSES LICENSED IN THIS  
10 COMMONWEALTH, ONE OF WHOM IS A CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE  
11 PRACTITIONER AND BOTH OF WHOM ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING  
12 LYME DISEASE AND RELATED TICK-BORNE ILLNESS.

13 (12) THE DIRECTOR OF VECTOR MANAGEMENT OF THE  
14 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

15 (13) AN ENTOMOLOGIST WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY  
16 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY WHO HAS EXPERIENCE IN  
17 TICK IDENTIFICATION AND TICK BORNE DISEASES.

18 (14) A REGISTERED SCHOOL NURSE LICENSED IN THIS  
19 COMMONWEALTH WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING LYME DISEASE AND  
20 RELATED TICK-BORNE ILLNESS.

21 (15) TWO VETERINARIANS LICENSED IN THIS COMMONWEALTH, AT  
22 LEAST ONE OF WHOM IS A VETERINARY EPIDEMIOLOGIST AND BOTH OF  
23 WHOM ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE CONCERNING LYME DISEASE AND RELATED  
24 TICK-BORNE ILLNESS.

25 (D) MEETINGS.--

26 (1) WITHIN 45 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
27 SECTION, THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK  
28 FORCE. THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT A CHAIRMAN OF THE TASK  
29 FORCE.

30 (2) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONVENE WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE

1 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION AND SHALL MEET AT LEAST  
2 QUARTERLY.

3 (3) THE TASK FORCE SHALL ISSUE A REPORT WITH  
4 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SECRETARY WITHIN ONE YEAR OF ITS FIRST  
5 MEETING. THE REPORT SHALL ALSO BE TRANSMITTED TO THE PUBLIC  
6 HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE HEALTH  
7 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

8 (4) NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT  
9 THE TASK FORCE FROM MAKING INTERIM REPORTS.

10 (E) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.--THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK  
11 FORCE SHALL RECEIVE NO COMPENSATION FOR THEIR SERVICES BUT SHALL  
12 BE ALLOWED THEIR ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES INCURRED IN  
13 PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES. REIMBURSEMENT SHALL BE PROVIDED BY  
14 THE DEPARTMENT.

15 (F) DUTIES OF DEPARTMENT.--THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

16 (1) DEVELOP A PROGRAM OF GENERAL PUBLIC INFORMATION AND  
17 EDUCATION REGARDING LYME DISEASE WHICH SHALL INCLUDE THE  
18 BROAD SPECTRUM OF SCIENTIFIC AND TREATING OPTIONS REGARDING  
19 ALL STAGES OF LYME DISEASE AND RELATED TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES.

20 (2) COOPERATE WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION TO  
21 DISSEMINATE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) TO  
22 LICENSEES OF THE PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION AND THE GENERAL  
23 PUBLIC.

24 (3) COOPERATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND  
25 NATURAL RESOURCES TO DISSEMINATE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED  
26 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND VISITORS OF  
27 STATE PARKS AND LANDS.

28 (4) COOPERATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO:

29 (I) DISSEMINATE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER  
30 PARAGRAPH (1) TO SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, SCHOOL NURSES,



1 FACULTY AND STAFF, PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND STUDENTS.

2 (II) DETERMINE WHAT ROLE SCHOOLS MAY PLAY IN THE  
3 PREVENTION OF LYME DISEASE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED  
4 TO, PROMPT REMOVAL AND REPORTING OF TICK REMOVALS TO  
5 STATE OFFICIALS.

6 (III) UPDATE POLICIES TO RECOGNIZE SIGNS OR SYMPTOMS  
7 OF LYME DISEASE AND RELATED TICK-BORNE ILLNESSES AS  
8 HEALTH CONDITIONS POTENTIALLY REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS.

9 (5) COOPERATE WITH PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF HEALTH  
10 CARE PROFESSIONALS TO PROVIDE THE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR  
11 PROFESSIONALS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1).

12 (6) COOPERATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
13 PROTECTION TO DISSEMINATE TICK INFECTION INFORMATION REQUIRED  
14 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND THE  
15 GENERAL PUBLIC.

16 (7) COOPERATE WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY,  
17 DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM FOR  
18 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT, TO DISSEMINATE EDUCATIONAL  
19 RESOURCES ABOUT TICKS, RELATED DISEASES AND INTEGRATED PEST  
20 MANAGEMENT FOR DISEASE PREVENTION AS REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH  
21 (1) TO HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

22 (G) TICK COLLECTION AND TESTING PROGRAM.--THE DEPARTMENT MAY  
23 DEVELOP AN ACTIVE TICK COLLECTION AND TESTING PROGRAM IN  
24 COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.  
25 THIS EFFORT MAY INCLUDE A TICK SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE A  
26 BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FULL  
27 RANGE OF TICK-BORNE DISEASES, GEOGRAPHIC HOT SPOTS AND LEVELS OF  
28 INFECTIVITY TO BE USED IN TARGETING PREVENTION AND EDUCATION  
29 EFFORTS AND VETERINARY DATA ON TICK-BORNE DISEASE PREVENTION,  
30 SPECIFICALLY DOGS AND HORSES AND OTHER ANIMALS AS THE CENTERS

1 FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION HAVE RECOMMENDED.

2 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.

3 THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.