

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 603 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, STREET, MARTIN, GORDNER, PITTMAN, COSTA, MASTRIANO, KANE, J. WARD AND L. WILLIAMS, APRIL 27, 2021

SENATOR MARTIN, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in school health services, further
6 providing for health services.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1402 of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
11 amended by adding subsections to read:

12 Section 1402. Health Services.--* * *

13 ~~(e.1) A school nurse, school physician or employe of a <--~~

14 ~~(E.1) THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY: <--~~

15 ~~(1) A SCHOOL NURSE, SCHOOL PHYSICIAN OR EMPLOYE OF A school
16 district shall remove a tick from a student in accordance with
17 guidelines issued by the Secretary of Health. After a tick is <--~~

18 ~~THE TICK SHALL: <--~~

19 ~~(I) BE PRESERVED FOR THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF THE STUDENT
20 TO SEND TO THE TICK RESEARCH LAB OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR TESTING, IF~~

1 THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN CHOOSES TO DO SO. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2 SHALL PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN ON HOW TO
3 SEND THE TICK TO THE TICK RESEARCH LAB OF PENNSYLVANIA; OR
4 (II) BE SENT DIRECTLY BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO THE TICK
5 RESEARCH LAB OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR TESTING. UPON RECEIVING THE
6 RESULTS, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL INFORM THE CHILD'S PARENT OR
7 GUARDIAN OF THE RESULTS.

8 (2) AFTER A TICK IS removed from a student, the school
9 district shall notify in writing the parent or guardian of the
10 student. The notice shall state that:

11 ~~(1)~~ (I) A tick was removed from your child today. Ticks can <--
12 transmit disease and make people sick. A common illness caused
13 by ticks in Pennsylvania is Lyme disease.

14 ~~(2)~~ (II) Not all tick bites lead to Lyme disease. <--

15 ~~(3)~~ (III) The parent or guardian should record the date on <--
16 which the tick was removed.

17 ~~(4)~~ (IV) It is recommended that the parent or guardian seek <--
18 medical treatment from the child's doctor promptly if they
19 notice any early signs or symptoms of illness within three (3)
20 to thirty (30) days of the date of removal. Some people with
21 Lyme disease will get a bulls-eye rash. Others may have an
22 atypical rash. Not everyone who has Lyme disease gets a rash.
23 Other symptoms which may occur during the early state of Lyme
24 disease include: chills, fever, headache, tiredness, stiff neck,
25 joint pain or swelling and swollen lymph nodes. Lyme disease is
26 treated with antibiotics. If untreated, infection may progress
27 to joint, heart, brain or nerve abnormalities.

28 (e.2) The Secretary of Health shall publish guidelines
29 consistent with subsection (e.1) on the Department of Health's
30 publicly accessible Internet website and, in consultation with

1 the Secretary of Education, provide the guidelines to school
2 districts.

3 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.