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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 603 Session of  
2021

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

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 27, 2021

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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 school district shall remove a tick from a student in accordance  
15 with guidelines issued by the Secretary of Health. After a tick  
16 is removed from a student, the school district shall notify in  
17 writing the parent or guardian of the student. The notice shall  
18 state that:

19 (1) A tick was removed from your child today. Ticks can  
20 transmit disease and make people sick. A common illness caused

1 by ticks in Pennsylvania is Lyme disease.

2 (2) Not all tick bites lead to Lyme disease.

3 (3) The parent or guardian should record the date on which  
4 the tick was removed.

5 (4) It is recommended that the parent or guardian seek  
6 medical treatment from the child's doctor promptly if they  
7 notice any early signs or symptoms of illness within three (3)  
8 to thirty (30) days of the date of removal. Some people with  
9 Lyme disease will get a bulls-eye rash. Others may have an  
10 atypical rash. Not everyone who has Lyme disease gets a rash.  
11 Other symptoms which may occur during the early state of Lyme  
12 disease include: chills, fever, headache, tiredness, stiff neck,  
13 joint pain or swelling and swollen lymph nodes. Lyme disease is  
14 treated with antibiotics. If untreated, infection may progress  
15 to joint, heart, brain or nerve abnormalities.

16 (e.2) The Secretary of Health shall publish guidelines  
17 consistent with subsection (e.1) on the Department of Health's  
18 publicly accessible Internet website and, in consultation with  
19 the Secretary of Education, provide the guidelines to school  
20 districts.

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