



Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

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Summary SB 177 PN 134

The Lyme and Related Tick-Borne Disease Surveillance, Education, Prevention and Treatment Act directs the Secretary of Health to establish a Task Force and an outreach campaign for purposes of educating providers and citizens on the disease.

The Secretary of Health shall appoint the members of the task force which shall consist of state officials, health care providers and citizens who are knowledgeable concerning Lyme disease and related tick-borne illness. The task force shall make recommendations to the department regarding the surveillance and prevention of the disease as well as the development of a program of general public and health care professional information and education. They shall recommend measures to encourage cooperation between the Department of Health and the Game Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Education for the purpose of evaluating the risks of the disease and disseminating relevant information.

Based on the recommendations of the task force, the department shall develop an educational program which includes the broad spectrum of scientific and treating options. A tick collection, testing and surveillance program shall also be developed in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection to provide a better understanding of hot spots and levels of infectivity. The department shall work with the Department of Education to disseminate the information to school officials and determine the role schools may play in the prevention and detection of the disease.

The Department shall identify and apply for public and private grants to carry out the provisions of this act.

Effective Date

This act shall take effect immediately.