STATE OF NEW YORK

8539

IN SENATE

May 9, 2018

Introduced by Sen. SERINO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT directing the superintendent of financial services to study the relationship between patient access to care and treatment of Lyme disease and health insurance coverage

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The legislature hereby finds that the increasing number of Lyme disease and tick-borne related diseases in New York state highlights the need to examine the relationship between patient access to care and treatment of Lyme disease and health insurance coverage. Lyme disease is one of several tick-borne diseases that may result in symptoms including, but not limited to, extreme and long-term fatigue, nausea, depression, and joint pain. Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne illness in the United States and New York is one of a group of 14 states that account for 95% of cases in the United States. According to the New York State Department of Health, over 20,000 cases of Lyme disease were diagnosed between years 2012 and 2014.

§ 2. The superintendent of financial services, in consultation with the commissioner of health, shall review the status of health insurance coverage for the treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-borne related diseases, and make recommendations regarding potential changes to insurance coverage requirements and parameters. Such review shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) The current range of insurance coverage for the treatment of Lyme and other tick-borne related diseases within New York State;

(b) Reasons for insurer denial of coverage for the treatment of Lyme and other tick-borne related diseases;

(c) Insurance coverage required by other states for the treatment of symptoms related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases and their estimated costs and payment models;

(d) The estimated cost of expanding coverage for the treatment of symptoms related to Lyme disease and other tick-borne related diseases.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD13140-01-7

§ 3. Within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this act, the superintendent of financial services shall submit a report to the governor, temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly of the department of financial services' findings, conclusions and recommendations.

§ 4. This act shall take effect immediately.