

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8900

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 5, 2018

Introduced by M. of A. HUNTER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing a Lyme and tick-borne diseases working group

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

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new article 45-B to read as follows:

### ARTICLE 45-B

#### LYME AND TICK-BORNE DISEASES WORKING GROUP

Section 958. Lyme and tick-borne diseases working group.

§ 958. Lyme and tick-borne diseases working group. 1. There is hereby created in the executive department a Lyme and tick-borne diseases working group consisting of the:

- (a) commissioner of health;
- (b) commissioner of the office of mental health;
- (c) commissioner of environmental conservation;
- (d) superintendent of financial services, who shall serve ex officio and who may designate representatives to act on their behalf; and
- (e) six additional members to be appointed by the governor.

2. The governor shall also appoint eight members to the working group on the recommendation of the legislative leaders as follows:

(a) the temporary president of the senate shall recommend three members;

(b) the speaker of the assembly shall recommend three members;

(c) the minority leader of the senate shall recommend one member; and

(d) the minority leader of the assembly shall recommend one member.

3. Members appointed to the working group shall include, but not be limited to, at least one of each of the following, each of whom must have experienced working with issues related to Lyme and tick-borne diseases:

(a) an infectious disease specialist;

(b) a general practitioner;

(c) a mental health practitioner;

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

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- 1 (d) an entomologist;  
2 (e) an epidemiologist; and  
3 (f) a representative of health insurance providers.

4 4. The commissioner of health shall serve, ex officio, as the chair of  
5 the working group, and the governor shall designate the vice chair of  
6 the working group. In appointing members of the working group, appoint-  
7 ing authorities shall ensure that such members, as a group, represent  
8 diverse scientific perspectives relevant to the duties of the working  
9 group. The members of the working group, except those who serve ex offi-  
10 cio, shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in  
11 the performance of their duties under this article but shall receive no  
12 additional compensation for services rendered pursuant to this article.

13 5. The working group, on call of the chair, shall meet at least twice  
14 each year and at such other times as may be necessary. The working group  
15 may establish quorum requirements and other rules and procedures regard-  
16 ing conduct of its meetings and other affairs.

17 6. The working group shall have the following powers and responsibil-  
18 ities:

19 (a) review current best practices for the diagnosis, treatment and  
20 prevention of Lyme and tick-borne diseases, as well as any reports or  
21 recommendations from the twenty-first century workgroup for disease  
22 elimination and reduction, pursuant to section two hundred sixty-six of  
23 the public health law;

24 (b) provide recommendations including, but not limited to:

25 (i) improvements to the delivery of care for patients and suspected  
26 patients of Lyme and tick-borne diseases, particularly those from endem-  
27 ic areas of the state;

28 (ii) collaborations among county departments of health to promote  
29 effective strategies to combat Lyme and tick-borne diseases, including  
30 best practices for prevention and reporting;

31 (iii) interagency collaborations to streamline state efforts to combat  
32 the spread of Lyme and tick-borne diseases;

33 (iv) identifying opportunities to collaborate with the federal govern-  
34 ment, non-profit entities, or private organizations on projects address-  
35 ing these diseases;

36 (v) data collection and reporting requirements of Lyme and tick-borne  
37 disease, including but not limited to, those for healthcare providers;  
38 and

39 (vi) any other regulations or guidelines concerning Lyme and tick-  
40 borne diseases; and

41 (c) prepare and issue a report on the working group's findings and  
42 recommendations by May first, two thousand nineteen to the governor, the  
43 temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly.

44 7. If any appointments to the working group are not made by April  
45 fifteenth, two thousand nineteen, then the working group may proceed to  
46 meet and fulfill its responsibilities, pursuant to paragraphs two and  
47 three of this section, without such appointees.

48 § 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
49 have become a law.