STATE OF NEW YORK

7600

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

July 12, 2023

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

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to requiring annual reports on tick-borne illnesses; and to require the superintendent of financial services to review the status of health insurance coverage for the treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-borne related diseases

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

Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section 207-b to read as follows:

§ 207-b. Tick-borne illnesses; reports. 1. The department, in conjunction with the tick-borne disease institute and the department of environmental conservation, shall publish a report on its website containing information related to the incidence of tick-borne illnesses in the state. Such report shall include, but not be limited to:

(a) the number of diagnosed cases of tick-borne illnesses;

(b) the incidence of tick-borne illness in each county; and

(c) the estimated tick population in the state and whether such population is expected to increase, decrease, or remain constant at the state and county level.

2. On or before April first annually, the department, in conjunction with the tick-borne disease institute and the department of environmental conservation, shall submit a report to the governor, the temporary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly. Such report shall summarize the statistics required to be reported pursuant to subdivision one of this section for the previous year and include any other information deemed relevant to tick-borne illnesses for the coming year.

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

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§ 2. (a) 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:

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

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

(iii) 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; and

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

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

§ 3. This act shall take effect immediately.