

STATE OF NEW YORK

8943

IN ASSEMBLY

January 30, 2024

Introduced by M. of A. THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Health

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:

1 Section 1. The public health law is amended by adding a new section
2 207-b to read as follows:

3 § 207-b. Tick-borne illnesses; reports. 1. The department, in conjunc-
4 tion with the tick-borne disease institute and the department of envi-
5 ronmental conservation, shall publish a report on its website containing
6 information related to the incidence of tick-borne illnesses in the
7 state. Such report shall include, but not be limited to:

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

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

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

13 2. On or before April first annually, the department, in conjunction
14 with the tick-borne disease institute and the department of environ-
15 mental conservation, shall submit a report to the governor, the tempo-
16 rary president of the senate, the speaker of the assembly, the minority
17 leader of the senate and the minority leader of the assembly. Such
18 report shall summarize the statistics required to be reported pursuant
19 to subdivision one of this section for the previous year and include any
20 other information deemed relevant to tick-borne illnesses for the coming
21 year.

22 § 2. (a) The superintendent of financial services, in consultation
23 with the commissioner of health, shall review the status of health
24 insurance coverage for the treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-
25 borne related diseases, and make recommendations regarding potential

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

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1 changes to insurance coverage requirements and parameters. Such review
2 shall include, but not be limited to:

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

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

7 (iii) Insurance coverage required by other states for the treatment of
8 symptoms related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases and their esti-
9 mated costs and payment models; and

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

12 (b) Within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this act,
13 the superintendent of financial services shall submit a report to the
14 governor, the temporary president of the senate, and the speaker of the
15 assembly of the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the depart-
16 ment of financial services.

17 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.