STATE OF NEW YORK

4626

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 10, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to lyme disease and tick-borne infection awareness and prevention

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 1392-b to read as follows:

§ 1392-b. Lyme disease and tick-borne infection awareness and prevention program for children's overnight, summer day and traveling summer day camps. 1. The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of environmental conservation, shall develop instructional tools and materials for children's overnight camps, summer day camps and traveling summer day camps regarding prevention and awareness of lyme disease and other tick-borne infections. Resources and materials shall be age-appropriate for children attending such camps and provide information on the identification of ticks, recommended procedures for safe tick removal and best practices to provide protection from ticks. Such materials may include but not be limited to video productions, pamphlets, and demonstration programs to illustrate the various sizes of ticks before and after engorgement to assist with the identification of a tick and the reaction on the skin that may occur as a result of a tick bite. Materials and instructional tools to advance and promote education and awareness on tick identification and protection shall be made available to children's overnight camps, summer day camps and traveling summer day camps upon request at no charge. Such materials and instructional tools may also be made available to children's non-regulated camps, pursuant to section three hundred ninety-eight-f of the general business law.

2. The commissioner shall promulgate, and review as necessary, rules and regulations related to children attending children's overnight

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

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camps, summer day camps, and traveling summer day camps who have a tick removed from them while at such a camp. Such regulations shall include but not be limited to:

(a) tick removal guidelines for employees and volunteers of such a camp, aged eighteen years or older, to be developed by the commissioner of health;

(b) procedures for written notification to a parent or guardian after a tick has been removed from a child attending such a camp. Written notification shall include, but not be limited to, the inclusion of informational materials developed by the commissioner about the spread of lyme disease and other tick-borne infections, signs and symptoms of lyme or tick-borne infections, and recommendations for how and when to seek medical treatment if needed; and

(c) the development of informational materials for such camps and parents to be provided on the department of health website. The rules and regulations established pursuant to this subdivision shall be deemed to be the minimum standards that must be complied with by every children's overnight camp, summer day camp, and traveling summer day camp relating to the removal of ticks on children. Such rules and regulations may also be implemented by children's non-regulated camps, pursuant to section three hundred ninety-eight-f of the general business law, if they so authorize.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.