

**Department of Legislative Services**  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2007 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Revised**

House Bill 836 (Delegate Montgomery, *et al.*)  
 Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Public Health - Lyme Disease - Public Awareness Campaign**

This bill requires the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, in collaboration with other State agencies, to establish and promote a statewide Lyme disease and associated tick-borne illnesses public information, awareness, and education campaign.

The bill terminates September 30, 2009.

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) general fund expenditures could increase by at least \$56,300 in FY 2008. Future years reflect annualization, inflation, and the bill’s termination date. No effect on revenues.

(in dollars)	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	56,300	75,800	19,100	0	0
Net Effect	(\$56,300)	(\$75,800)	(\$19,100)	\$0	\$0

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The statewide campaign must • target the general public and specific populations at high-risk for contracting Lyme disease and associated tick-borne illnesses;

- disseminate this information through written materials, posters, or any other medium the Secretary determines is appropriate and effective;
- distribute free informational materials to health clinics, schools, the forest and park service, and any other organizations serving individuals with a high risk of contact with ticks;
- develop and disseminate educational materials to health care providers about Lyme disease; and
- include any other matter the Secretary considers appropriate.

To implement the bill, the Secretary, on request, must receive aid or information from any State agency or public subdivision. The Secretary also may request the services of interested advocacy groups and may contract for any necessary services.

**Current Law:** None applicable.

**Background:** Lyme disease is transmitted to humans by the bite of infected blacklegged ticks. Symptoms of the disease are fever, headache, fatigue, and a skin rash. If not treated, the infection can spread to an individual's joints, heart, and nervous system. Most individuals with the disease can be treated with antibiotics.

Other tick-borne diseases include babesiosis and Southern Tick-Associated Rash Illness (STARI).

Babesiosis is an illness caused by a parasite that lives in some deer ticks. Symptoms include a fever, chills, sweating, weakness, tiredness, poor appetite, and headache. Some people with the illness do not develop symptoms. The illness can sometimes become serious and result in death. Individuals in their forties and fifties are most likely to get the illness, although it may affect individuals of all ages. Babesiosis is most often reported in Connecticut and on the islands off Massachusetts and New York.

STARI is an illness that develops after an individual is bitten by the lone star tick. Symptoms, in addition to a rash, include fatigue, fever, headache, and muscle and joint pains, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Lone star ticks are found from central Texas and Oklahoma across the southern states and along the Atlantic coast as far north as Maine.

**State Expenditures:** General fund expenditures could increase by an estimated \$56,250 in fiscal 2008, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2007 effective date. This estimate reflects printing costs (\$75,000 annually) for educational pamphlets and other printed materials that will be distributed to health clinics, schools, the forest and park service, and other organizations. Costs could be greater if other media, such as broadcast, are used.

Future year expenditures reflect annualization and 1% annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2007  
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