

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2007 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 119

(Delegates Eckardt and Haddaway)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health - Laboratory Examination Reports - Invasive Diseases

This bill adds anaplasmosis and babesiosis to the list of diseases or conditions that medical laboratories must report to a county health officer if the laboratory is in Maryland, or to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene if the laboratory is outside Maryland.

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) must pursue epidemiologic follow-up and laboratory confirmation of anaplasmosis and babesiosis. By January 1, 2010, DHMH must report to specified legislative committees on the continued need to monitor and require reporting of anaplasmosis and babesiosis.

The bill terminates September 30, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill's requirements could be handled with existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The director of a medical laboratory in Maryland must submit a report to the county health officer within 48 hours after an examination of a human specimen that shows evidence of any disease or condition the State requires to be reported. The director

of a medical laboratory outside Maryland that performs a test on a human specimen from a person in Maryland must submit a report to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene within 48 hours after the examination shows evidence of one of the required reportable diseases.

There are 66 diseases and conditions that medical laboratories must report to the State including: anthrax, cholera, dengue fever, measles, rabies, and tuberculosis. Chapter 210 of 2005 added Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease to this list. Chapter 359 of 2004 made several changes to this list by adding all types of arbovirus infection, pesticide-related illness, and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) to the list of reportable diseases and conditions.

Background: The bill, in part, is based on recommendations of the Subcommittee on Lyme Disease and other Tick-borne Diseases of the State's Vector-borne Disease Task Force.

Anaplasmosis is the more recently accepted name for human granulocytic anaplasmosis, a disease transmitted by deer ticks and western black-legged ticks. Symptoms include headache, fever, chills, muscle pain, and weakness. Anaplasmosis is most often reported in Rhode Island, Minnesota, Connecticut, New York, and Maryland.

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. Babesiosis is a reportable disease in other states with increased Lyme disease incidence, including Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; familydoctor.org, American Academy of Family Physicians; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Healthwise; American Lyme Disease Foundation, Inc.; Dorland's Medical Dictionary; Department of Legislative Services

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