

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 2 (Delegate Montgomery)
Health and Government Operations

Public Health - Lyme Disease - Record of Reported Cases

This bill requires the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to collect and keep annual records of reported Lyme disease cases in the State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill codifies existing procedure.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: General responsibilities of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene include investigating causes of disease and mortality, developing regulations to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and obtaining information about cancers, among other duties.

Physicians, health care institutions, and laboratories are required to report incidences of certain infectious and contagious diseases to their county health officers.

Background: Lyme disease is a bacterial disease transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected tick. It is most prevalent in the mid-Atlantic region. Symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and skin rash. Most cases are successfully treated with antibiotics, but untreated Lyme disease can spread to the heart and the nervous system.

Maryland is ranked the sixth highest in the nation for incidence of Lyme disease. In 2008, there were 1,746 confirmed cases of Lyme disease in Maryland, accounting for 6% of the nation's cases.

While not required by law, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene collects and records the number of Lyme disease cases reported each year.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 25, 2010
mlm/mwc

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