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H.207

Introduced by Representatives Howrigan of Fairfield, Clarkson of Woodstock,
Branagan of Georgia, Courcelle of Rutland City, Evans of
Essex, Frank of Underhill, Macaig of Williston, Martin of
Springfield, McCullough of Williston, Miller of Shaftsbury,
Mitchell of Barnard, O'Brien of Richmond, Potter of
Clarendon, Smith of Mendon, Taylor of Barre City, Till of
Jericho, Toll of Danville, Weston of Burlington and Young of
St. Albans City

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; Lyme disease; insurance coverage; education

Statement of purpose: This bill proposes to require health insurers to provide
coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease. It would also
promote education about Lyme disease, and require the agency of agriculture,
food and markets to create a process for members of the public to submit ticks
to the state for testing.

18 An act relating to Lyme disease treatment and education

19 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

1 Sec. 2. TESTING OF TICKS

2 The secretary of agriculture, food and markets shall adopt rules establishing
3 a process by which members of the public may submit ticks for testing at state
4 facilities.

5 Sec. 3. ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6 (a) The agency of agriculture, food and markets, in collaboration with the
7 departments of health and of forests, parks and recreation, shall convene an
8 advisory committee of the Vermont Lyme Network and other interested
9 stakeholders to examine the role that Lyme disease plays in Vermont and
10 identify ways to educate the health care community and the general public
11 about the disease.

12 (b) The agency shall report to the committees of jurisdiction no later than
13 January 15, 2010 on the status of infections and treatment of Lyme disease in
14 Vermont and recommendations for methods of educating the health care
15 community and the general public about the prevention, diagnosis, and
16 treatment of Lyme disease, living with Lyme disease, and chronic
17 manifestations of Lyme disease. The report shall also include the
18 recommendations of the stakeholders group with respect to the need for
19 continued monitoring and collaboration about Lyme disease in this state.

1 Sec. 4. MEDICAL EDUCATION

2 The department of health shall collaborate or consult with educational
3 institutions, medical associations, patient representatives, and other interested
4 parties to develop programs designed to educate physicians, school nurses,
5 public health staff, and other health care professionals about the signs of and
6 treatment for Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses.

7 Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE

8 (a) Sec. 1 of this act shall take effect on October 1, 2009 and shall apply to
9 all health benefit plans on and after October 1, 2009 on such date as a health
10 insurer offers, issues, or renews the health benefit plan, but in no event later
11 than October 1, 2010.

12 (b) The remaining sections of this act shall take effect upon passage.