

Act No. 134 (H.123). Health; population health

An act relating to Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses

This act requires the Vermont State Board of Medical Practice, the Vermont Board of Osteopathic Physicians, the Office of Professional Regulation, and the Vermont Board of Nursing to issue a policy statement to physicians, naturopathic physicians, and advanced practice registered nurses, respectively. The policy statement shall direct health care professionals to document the basis for a Lyme disease or other tick-borne illness diagnosis in patients' medical records; to provide information to patients that assist in their understanding of the available Lyme disease tests, the meaning of Lyme disease test results, and any limitations to those test results; and to obtain patients' written informed consent prior to administering long-term treatment for Lyme disease or other tick-borne illness. The policy statement must also state that precluding errors, omissions, or other unprofessional conduct, the respective Board or Office of Professional Regulation will not pursue disciplinary action against a physician, naturopathic physician, or advanced practice registered nurse solely for use of medical care recognized by the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Infectious Diseases Society of America, or International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society for the treatment of a patient's Lyme disease or other tick-borne illness symptoms.

The act also requires the Commissioner of Health to report to the General Assembly in 2015 and 2016 trends in the spread of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses throughout Vermont and the Department's public education initiatives to date on the prevention and treatment of these diseases.

Effective Date: July 1, 2014