

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Health Care to which was referred House Bill No. 123
3 entitled “An act relating to Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses”
4 respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends that the
5 bill be amended by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in
6 lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

8 The General Assembly finds:

9 (1) Lyme disease, caused by one or more Borrelia species of spirochete
10 bacteria, is increasingly widespread in Vermont and has become endemic in
11 the State.

12 (2) Lyme disease is the fastest growing vector-borne disease in
13 Vermont.

14 (3) Lyme disease may be successfully treated with a short-term course
15 of antibiotics if diagnosed early; however, for patients whose Lyme disease is
16 not identified early, complex and ongoing symptoms may require more
17 aggressive treatment as acknowledged by the Centers for Disease Control and
18 Prevention.

19 (4) Treatment of Lyme disease needs to be tailored to the individual
20 patient, and there is a range of opinions within the medical community
21 regarding proper treatment of Lyme disease.

1 (5) Coinfection by other tick-borne illnesses may complicate and
2 lengthen the course of treatment for Lyme disease.

3 Sec. 2. PURPOSE

4 The purpose of this act is to ensure that patients have access to treatment for
5 Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses in accordance with their needs and
6 the clinical judgment of their physicians.

7 Sec. 3. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

8 The Vermont State Board of Medical Practice shall issue a memorandum of
9 understanding to physicians licensed pursuant to 26 V.S.A. chapter 23 stating
10 that it shall not construe existing law to affect or prevent a physician's use of
11 medical care that effectively treats human disease, including the elimination or
12 control of a patient's symptoms when the patient is clinically diagnosed with
13 Lyme disease or other tick-borne illness.

14 Sec. 4. LYME DISEASE COALITION

15 (a) The Department of Health shall explore the formation of a coalition
16 among neighboring states for the purpose of performing a double blind,
17 placebo controlled prospective study on the use of long-term antibiotic therapy
18 to treat long-term Lyme disease symptoms. The Department shall also explore
19 grant opportunities to fund the coalition.

20 (b) On or before January 15, 2015, the Department shall report to the
21 Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and to the House Committee on

1 Health Care regarding its findings and recommendations for the establishment
2 of a Lyme disease coalition pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

3 (c) As used in this section, “long-term antibiotic therapy” means the
4 administration of oral, intramuscular, or intravenous antibiotics singly or in
5 combination for such periods of time as decided by the attending physician.

6 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

7 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2014.

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10 (Committee vote: _____)

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Representative [surname]

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FOR THE COMMITTEE

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