

26:2P-1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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NJSA: 26:2P-1

(Governor's Lyme
Disease Advisory)

LAWS OF: 1991

CHAPTER: 277

Bill No: A4223

Sponsor(s): Ford and others

Date Introduced: December 3, 1990

Committee: Assembly: Health and Human Services

Senate: Institutions, Health & Welfare

Amended during passage: Yes Amendments during passage
denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: Assembly: May 2, 1991

Senate: July 29, 1991

Date of Approval: September 12, 1991

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly: Yes

Senate: Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on signing: Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: Yes

Hearings: No

(over)

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H434
1990h

New Jersey. Legislature. General Assembly. Health &
Human Services Committee.
Public hearing on the impact of Lyme Disease...
held 11-2-90. Jackson Township, N.J.

KBG/SLJ

[SECOND REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4223

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 3, 1990

By Assemblywoman FORD, Assemblymen DOYLE,
Cimino and Baer

1 AN ACT establishing the "Governor's Lyme Disease Advisory
2 Council."

3

4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the
5 State of New Jersey:

6 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

7 a. Lyme disease is a bacterial infection which is spread by
8 ²[deer ticks] certain arthropods² and is one of the fastest growing
9 public health problems in New Jersey;

10 b. There is evidence that the disease may be transmitted
11 through blood products, shared needles, raw milk and
12 blood-sucking insects;

13 c. Lyme disease, which is the most common tick-borne disease
14 in this country, is present ²[at all times in 23] in 48² states and
15 ²[appears to be] five continents and is² spreading, ²[and New
16 Jersey is] with New Jersey being² one of the states in which the
17 disease is most prevalent;

18 d. Lyme disease was not widely recognized in the United
19 States until 1975 and was first identified in New Jersey in
20 Monmouth county in 1978;

21 e. Because Lyme disease is still relatively unknown among
22 both the medical community and the general public, it is often
23 misdiagnosed or not diagnosed, which results in more serious
24 health problems for the affected person; and

25 f. If untreated, Lyme disease, in its later stages, can result in
26 neurological disorders, including², but not limited to,² chronic
27 and severe fatigue, encephalitis, meningitis, memory loss,
28 dementia and seizures; severe arthritis; cardiac ²[complications]
29 dysfunction²; vision ²[difficulties and stomach disorders] loss,
30 gastrointestinal disorders, paralysis, strokes and death².

31 2. There is created a ²[nine-member] 13-member²
32 "Governor's Lyme Disease Advisory Council." The council shall
33 consist of: the Commissioners of the Departments of
34 Environmental Protection, Health and Education, or their
35 designees, who shall serve ex officio; and ²[six] 10² public
36 members who by virtue of education or experience are
37 knowledgeable about the problems of Lyme disease, ²[two of
38 whom are] six to be² appointed by the Governor, ²at least² one of

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the
above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AHH committee amendments adopted April 8, 1991.

² Senate SIH committee amendments adopted July 15, 1991.

1 whom shall be a physician ¹and ²[the other] at least one of whom
2 shall be² a veterinarian¹, two ²[of whom are] to be² appointed by
3 the President of the Senate and two ²[of whom are] to be²
4 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

5 The public members shall serve for three year terms or until a
6 successor is appointed; but of the members initially appointed,
7 ²[three] five² shall serve for a term of three years and ²[three]
8 five² shall serve for a term of two years.

9 Vacancies in the membership of the council shall be filled in
10 the same manner as the original appointments are made and a
11 member may be eligible for reappointment. Vacancies occurring
12 other than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the
13 unexpired term.

14 The members of the council shall serve without compensation
15 but shall be reimbursed for traveling and other miscellaneous
16 expenses necessary to perform their duties, within the limits of
17 funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the council for
18 its purposes.

19 3. The council shall advise the Governor regarding the
20 prevention, detection, occurrence, ²diagnosis,² treatment and
21 cure of Lyme disease, and shall establish a mechanism through
22 which physicians and communities throughout the State can share
23 information on the disease.

24 4. The council shall organize as soon after the appointment of
25 its members as is practicable. A majority of the council
26 members shall elect a chairperson and a secretary who need not
27 be a member of the council. The council shall meet at regular
28 intervals but at least on a monthly basis.

29 5. The council is entitled to call to its assistance and avail
30 itself of the services of any State, county or municipal
31 department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may
32 require and as may be available to it for its purposes. The
33 Department of the Treasury shall supply professional,
34 stenographic and clerical assistance which is necessary for the
35 council to perform its duties. The council may incur
36 miscellaneous expenses as it may deem necessary, in order to
37 perform its duties, and as may be within the limits of funds
38 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for those purposes.

39 6. The council shall submit an annual report to the Governor
40 and the Legislature by March 1 of each year.

41 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

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43
44 HEALTH

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46 Establishes 13-member "Governor's Lyme Disease Advisory
47 Council."

1 for a term of two years.

2 Vacancies in the membership of the council shall be filled in
3 the same manner as the original appointments are made and a
4 member may be eligible for reappointment. Vacancies occurring
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31 appropriated or otherwise made available to it for those purposes.

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33 and the Legislature by March 1 of each year.

34 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill establishes a nine-member "Governor's Lyme Disease
40 Advisory Council. The purpose of the council is to advise the
41 Governor regarding the prevention, detection, occurrence,
42 treatment and cure of Lyme disease and to establish a mechanism
43 through which physicians and communities throughout the State
44 can share information on the disease. The council shall report to
45 the Governor and the Legislature on its progress on an annual
46 basis.

47 The membership of the council consists of the Commissioners
48 of the Departments of Environmental Protection, Health and

1 Education, or their designees, and six public members
2 knowledgeable about Lyme disease, two of whom shall be
3 appointed by the Governor, two of whom shall be appointed by
4 the President of the Senate and two of whom shall be appointed
5 by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

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HEALTH

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10 Establishes nine-member "Governor's Lyme Disease Advisory
11 Council."

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4223

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: APRIL 8, 1991

The Assembly Health and Human Services Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 4223 with committee amendments.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes a nine-member "Governor's Lyme Disease Advisory Council." The purpose of the council is to advise the Governor regarding the prevention, detection, occurrence, treatment and cure of Lyme disease and to establish a mechanism through which physicians and communities throughout the State can share information on the disease. The council is to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature by March 1 of each year.

The amended bill provides that the council membership will include: the Commissioners of Environmental Protection, Health and Education, or their designees, and six public members who through education or experience are knowledgeable about Lyme disease, two to be appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a physician and the other a veterinarian, and two each to be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly.

The Department of the Treasury is to provide such professional, stenographic and clerical assistance as the council requires to perform its duties.

The committee amended the bill at the sponsor's request to designate that one of the gubernatorial appointments to the council shall be a veterinarian. The amendment reflects the fact that veterinarians repeatedly are in contact with animals which may be carriers of the deer tick that causes Lyme disease, and have been involved with the development of preventive measures and possible treatments for the disease.

SENATE INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4223

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JULY 15, 1991

The Senate Institutions, Health and Welfare Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 4223 [1R] with committee amendments.

As amended by committee, this bill establishes a 13-member "Governor's Lyme Disease Advisory Council." The purpose of the council is to advise the Governor regarding the prevention, detection, occurrence, diagnosis, treatment and cure of Lyme disease and to establish a mechanism through which physicians and communities throughout the State can share information on the disease. The council is to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature by March 1 of each year.

The bill provides that the council membership will include: the Commissioners of Environmental Protection, Health and Education, or their designees, and 10 public members who through education or experience are knowledgeable about Lyme disease, six to be appointed by the Governor, at least one of whom shall be a physician and at least one of whom shall be a veterinarian, and two each to be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly.

The Department of the Treasury is to provide such professional, stenographic and clerical assistance as the council requires to perform its duties.

The committee amended the bill to increase the size of the council from nine to 13 members by adding four public members who will be appointed by the Governor. The amendments also provide that the council shall advise the Governor regarding the diagnosis of Lyme disease, as well as its prevention, detection, occurrence, treatment and cure. Finally, the amendments incorporate additional informational language in the legislative findings and declaration section of the bill in order to clarify the nature and dimensions of the Lyme disease problem.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001
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Release: THURSDAY
SEPT. 12, 1991

Governor Jim Florio today signed a bill creating the Governor's Lyme Disease Advisory Council, which will assist New Jersey in the fight to eradicate Lyme Disease.

"Through this council, we can establish better communication about this tragic disease," Governor Florio said. "We can establish a partnership with the medical community and all communities in the state to explore new ways to share information, educate others and fight this disease."

The new law establishes a 13-member council to advise the Governor regarding Lyme Disease and to establish a system through which communities and physicians can share information on the disease.

The new law follows the creation last year of a Lyme Disease hotline to serve as a clearinghouse of information for people throughout the state.

The bill signing was attended by Mary Schmidt, of Sayreville, whose daughter, Mandy Lynn, was the first recorded death in New Jersey from Lyme Disease.

"The efforts of people like Mary Schmidt have made an important difference. She has helped others live with Lyme Disease and has helped raise awareness about the disease and educate others," Governor Florio said.

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