Mandates health insurance coverage for Lyme disease vaccination.

As introduced.
AN ACT concerning coverage for vaccines to prevent Lyme disease and supplementing Titles 17 and 26 of the Revised Statutes and Title 17B of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

1. A hospital service corporation which provides hospital or medical expense benefits under a contract that is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide benefits under the contract for expenses incurred for a vaccination to prevent Lyme disease. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the contract. This section shall apply to those hospital service corporation contracts in which the hospital service corporation has reserved the right to change the premium.

2. A medical service corporation which provides hospital or medical expense benefits under a contract that is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide benefits under the contract for expenses incurred for a vaccination to prevent Lyme disease. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the contract. This section shall apply to those medical service corporation contracts in which the medical service corporation has reserved the right to change the premium.

3. A health service corporation which provides hospital or medical expense benefits under a contract that is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide benefits under the contract for expenses incurred for a vaccination to prevent Lyme disease. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the contract. This section shall apply to those health service corporation contracts in which the health service corporation has reserved the right to change the premium.

4. A group health insurer which provides hospital or medical
expense benefits under a policy that is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide benefits for expenses incurred for a vaccination to prevent Lyme disease.

The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the policy.

This section shall apply to those insurance policies in which the insurer has reserved the right to change the premium.

5. An individual health insurer which provides hospital or medical expense benefits under a policy that is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide benefits for expenses incurred for a vaccination to prevent Lyme disease.

The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the policy.

This section shall apply to those insurance policies in which the insurer has reserved the right to change the premium.

6. A certificate of authority to establish and operate a health maintenance organization in this State shall not be issued or continued on or after the effective date of this act, unless the health maintenance organization provides health care services for a vaccination to prevent Lyme disease.

The health care services shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the contract.

The provisions of this section shall apply to those health maintenance organization contracts for health care services under which the health maintenance organization has reserved the right to change the schedule of charges.

7. Every individual health benefits plan that is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to P.L.1992, c.161 (C.17B:27A-2 et seq.) or approved for issuance or renewal in this State, on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide benefits for expenses incurred for a vaccination to prevent Lyme disease.

The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the health benefits plan.

The provisions of this section shall apply to all health benefit plans in which the carrier has reserved the right to change the premium.

8. Every small employer health benefits plan that is delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State pursuant to P.L.1992, c.162 (C.17B:27A-17 et seq.) or approved for issuance or renewal in this
State, on or after the effective date of this act, shall provide benefits for expenses incurred for a vaccination to prevent Lyme disease. The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other medical condition under the health benefits plan. The provisions of this section shall apply to all health benefit plans in which the carrier has reserved the right to change the premium.

9. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill requires hospital, medical and health service corporations, individual, small employer and large group insurers and health maintenance organizations to cover the expenses of a vaccination to prevent Lyme disease.