

ASSEMBLY, No. 787

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman FARRAGHER

1 AN ACT establishing the Lyme Disease Prevention and Control
2 Program in the Department of Health and supplementing Title 26
3 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Lyme Disease
9 Prevention and Control Act."

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11 2. The Legislature finds and declares that: Lyme disease, which is
12 spread by deer ticks and is one of the fastest growing public health
13 problems, was first identified in this State in Monmouth County in
14 1978, and the reported incidents of the disease have since spread to
15 other counties in New Jersey. Although Lyme Disease is the most
16 common tick-borne illness in the United States and New Jersey is one
17 of the states in which the disease is most prevalent, with about 90
18 percent of the reported cases of Lyme disease nationally having
19 occurred in the seven states of New Jersey, Connecticut,
20 Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island and Wisconsin,
21 the disease is still relatively unknown among both the medical
22 community and the general public and consequently is often
23 misdiagnosed or not diagnosed, which results in more serious health
24 problems for the affected person. Lyme disease, if untreated, can
25 result in neurological disorders and severe arthritis in its advanced
26 stages.

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28 3. There is established the Lyme Disease Prevention and Control
29 Program in the Division of Epidemiology and Communicable Disease
30 Control in the Department of Health. The program shall provide
31 directly, or through contractual arrangements with other providers,
32 education, prevention, treatment and laboratory testing services
33 relating to Lyme disease, according to guidelines established by the
34 Commissioner of Health.

