

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 03/30, 04/20

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Knopp, Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Shields

Nays: 1 - Steiner Hayward

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Medical Board and Oregon Board of Nursing to study clinical guidance regarding Lyme disease and health outcomes. Requires report to Legislative Assembly by March 1, 2016. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Severity, duration and cost of Lyme disease
- Effectiveness of identification, care and treatment of Lyme disease in Oregon
- Alternative treatment options and modalities
- Difference between treatment across states
- Physician authority in making judgements and decisions

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

Lyme disease is an infection caused by bacteria transmitted by the bite of deer and western blacklegged ticks. Health care providers and clinical laboratories are required to report cases of Lyme disease to local health departments. During 2013, 42 cases of Lyme disease were reported in Oregon. People tend to be infected through bites of immature ticks which can be difficult to see. In most cases, ticks must be attached to a person for 36 to 48 hours before Lyme disease can be transmitted. The incubation period for Lyme disease ranges from three to thirty days after exposure, and early stages often show no symptoms. When symptoms present, they typically include fever, headache, fatigue and skin rash. If untreated, the joints, heart and nervous system can be affected. Lyme disease is diagnosed based on these symptoms and laboratory blood testing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that certain antibiotics, if provided in the early stages, can allow a person to recover completely, but approximately 10 to 20 percent of patients, particularly those who did not receive appropriate, early antibiotic treatment, may have persistent or recurrent symptoms.