

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4820

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 16, 2023

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4820 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires a board of education to incorporate curriculum guidelines concerning Lyme Disease and other tick-borne diseases in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

These guidelines are to emphasize disease prevention and include topics such as the biology of various tick species, tick habitats, a list of diseases transmitted by ticks, recommended attire and repellants to help protect an individual from ticks, how to perform tick checks, proper techniques for the removal of ticks, and symptoms an individual may experience after receiving a tick bite. The bill requires these boards of education to consult resources from multiple nationally-recognized organizations with expertise in Lyme Disease or other tick-borne diseases in fulfilling the requirements of the bill.

The amended bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop curriculum guidelines for both Lyme Disease and other tick-borne diseases.

The amended bill further requires the Department of Health to publish on the department's Internet website guidelines concerning the discovery and removal of ticks on persons.

As amended and reported, Assembly Bill No. 4820 is identical to Senate Bill No. 2463, which also was amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- include a findings and declarations section;
- require a board of education to consult multiple nationally-recognized organizations with expertise in Lyme Disease or other tick-borne disease to fulfil the requirements of the bill;

- remove the provisions of the bill that would require a board of education to develop a policy concerning the discovery and removal of ticks on students; and
- remove a provision in the bill that required the Department of Health to provide guidelines concerning the discovery and removal of ticks to each school district in the State and to publish a list on its Internet website of facilities in the State that perform tick testing.