

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 1521

S.P. 544

March 20, 2007

### **An Act To Provide Education Concerning and Insurance Coverage for Lyme Disease**

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Reference to the Committee on Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRYANT of Oxford.  
Cosponsored by Representative BRYANT of Windham and Senators: DIAMOND of  
Cumberland, MARRACHÉ of Kennebec, Representative: HOTHAM of Dixfield.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 24-A MRSA §2745-H** is enacted to read:

3 **§2745-H. Lyme disease coverage**

4 All individual insurance policies and contracts except accidental injury, specified  
5 disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, long-term care and other limited  
6 benefit health insurance policies and contracts must provide coverage for services for the  
7 detection and treatment of Lyme disease.

8 The requirements of this section apply to all policies, contracts and certificates  
9 executed, delivered, issued for delivery, continued or renewed in this State on or after  
10 September 1, 2007. For purposes of this section, all contracts are deemed to be renewed  
11 no later than the next anniversary of the contract date.

12 **Sec. 2. 26 MRSA c. 7, sub-c. 2-B** is enacted to read:

13 **SUBCHAPTER 2-B**

14 **LYME DISEASE INFORMATION**

15 **§651. Lyme disease, responsibilities of employers**

16 An employer whose employees are involved in any activities that the Department of  
17 Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and lists  
18 on its publicly accessible website as activities that place persons at high risk of exposure  
19 to Lyme disease, shall, before allowing those employees to engage in such activities,  
20 provide accurate information to the employees about Lyme disease, including  
21 information about risks of exposure, ways of reducing or preventing such risks,  
22 recognition of symptoms and treatment. Upon request of an employer, the Maine Center  
23 for Disease Control and Prevention shall supply information to the employer adequate to  
24 fulfill the requirements of this section.

25 An employer who fails to provide information in accordance with this section  
26 commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 may  
27 be adjudged.

28 **Sec. 3. Lyme disease study.** The Department of Health and Human Services,  
29 Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and shall list on its publicly accessible  
30 website activities that it determines to place persons at high risk of exposure to Lyme  
31 disease. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention shall also study the  
32 incidence of Lyme disease in this State, how many cases of Lyme disease are contracted  
33 by employees during the course of their employment and the effects of the disease on the  
34 State. The center shall issue a report of its findings and any recommendations to the  
35 Governor and the Legislature no later than January 1, 2008.

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## SUMMARY

2        This bill requires insurance policies to provide coverage for the treatment of Lyme  
3 disease. It also requires any employer whose employees are involved in activities that  
4 place them at high risk of exposure to Lyme disease to provide those employees with  
5 accurate information about Lyme disease before allowing them to engage in such  
6 activities. It directs the Maine Center for Disease Control Prevention to study the  
7 incidence of Lyme disease in this State, how many cases of Lyme disease are contracted  
8 by employees during the course of their employment, and the effects of the disease on the  
9 State.