MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1956

S.P. 750

December 18, 2007

Resolve, To Expand the Case Definition of Lyme Disease for Purposes of Compiling the Annual Lyme Disease Surveillance Report

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 18, 2007. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

JOY J. O'BRIEN Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BRYANT of Oxford.

Cosponsored by Representative BRYANT of Windham, Representative CONOVER of Oakland and Representatives: BRIGGS of Mexico, DRISCOLL of Westbrook, GERZOFSKY of Brunswick, JACKSON of Allagash, PATRICK of Rumford, THERIAULT of Madawaska.

1 Preamble. Whereas, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention 2 investigates and collects surveillance data on reports of Lyme disease; and 3 Whereas, data presented in the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention's 4 Lyme Disease Surveillance Report reflects only those reports that meet its case definition 5 of Lyme disease; and 6 Whereas, the case definition of Lyme disease used by the Maine Center for Disease 7 Control and Prevention includes only those cases in which a person presents with 8 erythema migrans, the characteristic bull's-eye rash associated with Lyme disease and cases in which a person has laboratory confirmation of infection; and 10 Whereas, since not all patients with Lyme disease will develop the characteristic bull's-eye rash and laboratory tests may be falsely negative in patients with early Lyme 11 disease, using such a narrow case definition of Lyme disease may result in an 12 13 underreporting of the incidence of the disease in the State; now, therefore, be it 14 Sec. 1. Expansion of case definition. Resolved: That the Maine Center for 15 Disease Control and Prevention shall expand the case definition of Lyme disease that it uses to prepare the Lyme Disease Surveillance Report to include instances of physician-16 17 diagnosed Lyme disease in the absence of erythema migrans or laboratory confirmation 18 of infection. 19 **SUMMARY** 20 21

This resolve directs the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to expand the case definition of Lyme disease that it uses to prepare the Lyme Disease Surveillance Report to include instances of physician-diagnosed Lyme disease in the absence of erythema migrans or laboratory confirmation of infection.

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