



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

SENATE BILL NO. 232

PRINTER'S NO. 637

PRIME SPONSOR: Brooks

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2024/25	FY 2025/26
General Fund	\$0	\$0

SUMMARY:

This legislation requires school entities to remove ticks from students, facilitate testing of the tick for diseases, and provide information to parents and guardians about Lyme disease.

ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 232, Printer's Number 637 amends Section 1402 Health Services of Act 14 of 1949, known as the Public School Code of 1949, to require school entities to remove ticks from students, facilitate testing of the removed tick for diseases, and provide information to parents and guardians regarding Lyme disease.

A school nurse, school physician, or designated employee of a school entity shall remove a tick from a student per the guidelines issued by the Secretary of Health and preserve the tick for the parent or guardian of the student.

The school entity is required to:

- Provide the parent or guardian information on how to send the tick to the Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania, if they choose to do so, or have the school entity send the tick to the research lab directly.
- Provide the original results to the child's parent or guardian upon receiving the results from the research lab. The school entity must not keep a copy of the results or include information regarding the results in the child's school medical record. The school entity may notate the diseases present in the tick, with no personal information of the child, for the purposes of compiling data as to what diseases are present in the ticks on and around the school entity's property.
- Notify the parent or guardian of the child in writing about the removal of the tick and recommend prompt medical treatment if the child shows early signs or symptoms of illness within three to thirty days of the date of tick removal.

This legislation requires the Secretary of Health to publish guidelines on the removal of ticks on the department's website, and, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, provide the guidelines to school entities.

A "school entity" is defined as a school district, intermediate unit, charter school, cyber charter school, regional charter school, or area career and technical school.

This legislation shall take effect in 60 days upon enactment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This legislation requires school entities to remove ticks from students, facilitate tick testing, and provide education on Lyme disease to the parent or guardian of the child. Additionally, it requires the Department of Health to publish guidelines on the removal of ticks on its website and, in consultation with Department of Education, provide guidelines to school entities. Enactment of this legislation would have no fiscal impact on commonwealth funds.

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House Appropriations Committee (D)

DATE: October 9, 2024

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.