

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2557

To provide for the establishment of the Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory
Committee.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 15, 2011

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. HOLDEN, and Mr. GIBSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Tick-Borne Diseases
Advisory Committee.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A TICK-BORNE DISEASES**
4 **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
7 Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act as
8 the “Secretary”) shall establish within the Office of the
9 Secretary an advisory committee to be known as the Tick-

1 Borne Diseases Advisory Committee (referred to in this
2 section as the “Committee”).

3 (b) DUTIES.—The Committee shall advise the Sec-
4 retary and the Assistant Secretary for Health regarding
5 the manner in which such officials can—

6 (1) ensure interagency coordination and com-
7 munication and minimize overlap regarding efforts
8 to address tick-borne diseases;

9 (2) identify opportunities to coordinate efforts
10 with other Federal agencies and private organiza-
11 tions addressing such diseases;

12 (3) ensure interagency coordination and com-
13 munication with constituency groups;

14 (4) ensure that a broad spectrum of scientific
15 viewpoints is represented in public health policy deci-
16 sions and that information disseminated to the pub-
17 lic and physicians is balanced; and

18 (5) advise relevant Federal agencies on prior-
19 ities related to the Lyme and tick-borne diseases.

20 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

21 (1) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ap-
23 point the voting members of the Committee
24 from among individuals who are not officers or
25 employees of the Federal Government.

1 (B) GROUPS.—The voting members of the
2 Committee shall include the following:

3 (i) At least 4 members from the sci-
4 entific community representing the broad
5 spectrum of viewpoints held within the sci-
6 entific community related to Lyme and
7 other tick-borne diseases.

8 (ii) At least 2 representatives of tick-
9 borne disease voluntary organizations.

10 (iii) At least 2 health care providers,
11 including at least 1 full-time practicing
12 physician, with relevant experience pro-
13 viding care for individuals with a broad
14 range of acute and chronic tick-borne dis-
15 eases.

16 (iv) At least 2 patient representatives
17 who are individuals who have been diag-
18 nosed with a tick-borne disease or who
19 have had an immediate family member di-
20 agnosed with such a disease.

21 (v) At least 2 representatives of State
22 and local health departments and national
23 organizations that represent State and
24 local health professionals.

1 (C) DIVERSITY.—In appointing members
2 under this paragraph, the Secretary shall en-
3 sure that such members, as a group, represent
4 a diversity of scientific perspectives relevant to
5 the duties of the Committee.

6 (2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Secretary
7 shall designate, as nonvoting, ex officio members of
8 the Committee, representatives overseeing tick-borne
9 disease activities from each of the following Federal
10 agencies:

11 (A) The Centers for Disease Control and
12 Prevention.

13 (B) The National Institutes of Health.

14 (C) The Agency for Healthcare Research
15 and Quality.

16 (D) The Food and Drug Administration.

17 (E) The Office of the Assistant Secretary
18 for Health.

19 (F) Such additional Federal agencies as
20 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

21 (3) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The Secretary shall
22 designate the Assistant Secretary for Health as the
23 co-chairperson of the Committee. The appointed
24 members of the Committee shall also elect a public

1 co-chairperson. The public co-chairperson shall serve
2 a 2-year term.

3 (4) TERM OF APPOINTMENT.—The term of
4 service for each member of the Committee appointed
5 under paragraph (1) shall be 4 years.

6 (5) VACANCY.—A vacancy in the membership of
7 the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as
8 the original appointment. Any member appointed to
9 fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall be ap-
10 pointed for the remainder of that term. Members
11 may serve after the expiration of their terms until
12 their successors have taken office.

13 (d) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall hold public
14 meetings, except as otherwise determined by the Sec-
15 retary, after providing notice to the public of such meet-
16 ings, and shall meet at least twice a year with additional
17 meetings subject to the call of the co-chairpersons. Agenda
18 items with respect to such meetings may be added at the
19 request of the members of the Committee, including the
20 co-chairpersons. Meetings shall be conducted, and records
21 of the proceedings shall be maintained, as required by ap-
22 plicable law and by regulations of the Secretary.

23 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
25 Committee, through the Director of the Centers for Dis-

1 ease Control and Prevention and the Director of the Na-
2 tional Institutes of Health, shall submit a report to the
3 Secretary. Each such report shall contain, at a min-
4 imum—

5 (1) a description of the Committee's functions;

6 (2) a list of the Committee's members and their
7 affiliations; and

8 (3) a summary of the Committee's activities
9 and recommendations during the previous year, in-
10 cluding any significant issues regarding the func-
11 tioning of the Committee.

12 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the
13 amounts made available to the Department of Health and
14 Human Services for general departmental management
15 for fiscal years 2012 through 2016, there is authorized
16 to be appropriated \$250,000 for each of such fiscal years
17 to carry out this Act. Amounts made available to carry
18 out this Act shall be used for the expenses and per diem
19 costs incurred by the Committee under this section in ac-
20 cordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, except
21 that no voting member of the Committee shall be a perma-
22 nent salaried employee.

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