

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 232 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, BREWSTER, BOSCOLA, KANE, MARTIN, LANGERHOLC, STREET, J. WARD, COMITTA, MASTRIANO, COSTA, L. WILLIAMS, ROBINSON, COLLETT AND DILLON, JANUARY 27, 2023

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, APRIL 25, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in school health services, further
6 providing for health services.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. ~~Section 1402 of the act of March 10, 1949~~ <--
10 ~~(P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is~~
11 ~~amended by adding subsections to read:~~

12 SECTION 1. SECTION 1402(G) OF THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 <--
13 (P.L.30, NO.14), KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, IS
14 AMENDED BY ADDING A DEFINITION AND THE SECTION IS AMENDED BY
15 ADDING SUBSECTIONS TO READ:

16 Section 1402. Health Services.--\* \* \*

17 (e.1) The following shall apply:

18 (1) A school nurse, school physician or DESIGNATED employe <--
19 of a school district ENTITY shall remove a tick from a student <--

1 in accordance with guidelines issued by the Secretary of Health.

2 The tick shall:

3 (i) be preserved for the parent or guardian of the student  
4 to send to the Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania for testing, if  
5 the parent or guardian chooses to do so. The school district <--  
6 ENTITY shall provide information to the parent or guardian on <--  
7 how to send the tick to the Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania;  
8 or

9 (ii) be sent directly by the school district ENTITY to the <--  
10 Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania for testing using the free  
11 basic panel tick test. Upon receiving the results, the school  
12 district ENTITY shall inform the child's parent or guardian of <--  
13 the results. PROVIDE THE ORIGINAL RESULTS TO THE CHILD'S PARENT <--  
14 OR GUARDIAN. THE SCHOOL ENTITY:

15 (A) SHALL NOT MAKE A COPY OF THE RESULTS OR INCLUDE ANY  
16 INFORMATION REGARDING THE RESULTS IN THE CHILD'S SCHOOL MEDICAL  
17 RECORD.

18 (B) MAY NOTATE THE DISEASES PRESENT IN THE TICK, WITH NO  
19 IDENTIFYING OR PERSONAL INFORMATION OF THE CHILD, FOR THE  
20 PURPOSES OF COMPILING DATA AS TO WHAT DISEASES ARE PRESENT IN  
21 THE TICKS ON AND AROUND THE SCHOOL ENTITY'S PROPERTY.

22 (2) After a tick is removed from a student, the school  
23 district ENTITY shall notify in writing the parent or guardian <--  
24 of the student. The notice shall state that:

25 (i) A tick was removed from your child today. Ticks can  
26 transmit disease and make people sick. A common illness caused  
27 by ticks in Pennsylvania is Lyme disease.

28 (ii) Not all tick bites lead to Lyme disease.

29 (iii) The parent or guardian should record the date on which  
30 the tick was removed.

1 (iv) It is recommended that the parent or guardian seek  
2 medical treatment from the child's doctor promptly if they  
3 notice any early signs or symptoms of illness within three (3)  
4 to thirty (30) days of the date of removal. Some people with  
5 Lyme disease will get a bulls-eye rash. Others may have an  
6 atypical rash. Not everyone who has Lyme disease gets a rash.  
7 Other symptoms which may occur during the early stages of Lyme  
8 disease include chills, fever, headache, tiredness, stiff neck,  
9 joint pain or swelling and swollen lymph nodes. Lyme disease is  
10 treated with antibiotics. If untreated, infection may progress  
11 to joint, heart, brain or nerve abnormalities.

12 (e.2) The Secretary of Health shall publish guidelines  
13 consistent with subsection (e.1) on the Department of Health's  
14 publicly accessible Internet website and, in consultation with  
15 the Secretary of Education, provide the guidelines to school  
16 districts ENTITIES. <--

17 \* \* \*

18 (G) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES <--  
19 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION UNLESS  
20 THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

21 \* \* \*

22 "SCHOOL ENTITY" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT, INTERMEDIATE UNIT,  
23 CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OR  
24 AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.