

2010 -- S 2265

LC01711

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION - HEALTH EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Paiva-Weed, Tassoni, Maselli, and DeVall

Date Introduced: February 11, 2010

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. [Short title](#) – The Act shall be cited and known as the "Beth Bowley Coen  
2 Lyme Disease Educational Act."

3 SECTION 2. [Legislative Intent](#) – It is the intent of the general assembly to afford all  
4 Rhode Island children all the protection possible from contacting Lyme disease.

5 SECTION 3. [Legislative findings](#) – Whereas the general assembly finds that (a) Rhode  
6 Island ranks fourth (4th) in the nation in the incidence of Lyme Disease and (b) That the highest  
7 incidence of Lyme disease occurs in children between the ages of five (5) and fourteen years of  
8 age; and

9 Whereas, the general assembly has further found that: (a) That Lyme disease is a serious  
10 threat to the health of all children in Rhode Island; (b) That medical science has not perfected a  
11 serum or vaccine to protect Rhode Island children against Lyme disease and (c) That the sole  
12 defense that Rhode Island children have against contracting Lyme disease is awareness and  
13 prevention and (d) That a structured program for Lyme disease awareness and prevention is  
14 absent from Rhode Island's mandated health curriculum.

15 SECTION 4. Section 16-22-4 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-22 entitled  
16 "Curriculum" is hereby amended to read as follows:

17 **16-22-4. Instruction in health and physical education.** -- All children in grades one  
18 through twelve (12) attending public schools, or any other schools managed and controlled by the  
19 state, shall receive in those schools instruction in health and physical education [which shall](#)

1 [include Lyme disease prevention and treatment](#) under rules and regulations the department of  
2 elementary and secondary education may prescribe or approve during periods which shall average  
3 at least twenty (20) minutes in each school day. No private school or private instruction shall be  
4 approved by any school committee for the purposes of chapter 19 of this title as substantially  
5 equivalent to that required by law of a child attending a public school in the same city and/or  
6 town unless instruction in health and physical education similar to that required in public schools  
7 shall be given. Commencing September 1, 2012, the required health education curriculum shall  
8 be based on the health education standards of the Rhode Island Health Education Framework:  
9 Health Literacy for All Students as promulgated by the Rhode Island department of education and  
10 consistent with the mandated health instructional outcomes therein. Commencing September 1,  
11 2012, the required physical education curriculum shall be based on the physical education  
12 standards of the Rhode Island Physical Education Framework: Supporting Physically Active  
13 Lifestyles through Quality Physical Education as promulgated by the Rhode Island department of  
14 education and consistent with the instructional outcomes therein.

15 SECTION 5. Chapter 16-22 of the General Laws entitled "Curriculum" is hereby  
16 amended by adding thereto the following section:

17 **16-22-25. Lyme disease awareness and prevention program.** -- [\(a\) The department of](#)  
18 [elementary and secondary education shall develop and prescribe a Lyme disease awareness and](#)  
19 [prevention course for public school students in the state. The course shall be established in](#)  
20 [accordance with the requirements and criteria obtained from the director of the department of](#)  
21 [health. The department of elementary and secondary education shall promulgate course](#)  
22 [guidelines.](#)

23 [\(b\) The school committees of the several cities, towns, and school districts shall provide](#)  
24 [for the incorporation of the course in training in existing health education courses.](#)

25 SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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- 1           This act would require that the department of elementary and secondary education
- 2   develop a Lyme disease awareness and prevention course for public school students and all health
- 3   education classes include instruction on Lyme disease prevention and treatment.
- 4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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