

RI Education Curriculum Bill Enacted

Chapter 087

2010 – H 7418 SUBSTITUTE A

Enacted 06/16/10

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION – HEALTH EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Introduced By: Representatives Jackson, Gallison, Martin, A
Rice, and Edwards

Date Introduced: February 09, 2010

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Short title – The Act shall be cited and known as
the “Beth Bowley Coen
Lyme Disease Educational Act.”

SECTION 2. Legislative Intent – It is the intent of the
general assembly to afford all
Rhode Island children all the protection possible from
contacting Lyme disease.

SECTION 3. Legislative findings – Whereas the general assembly
finds that Rhode
Island ranks fourth (4th) in the nation in the incidence of
Lyme Disease; and
Whereas, the general assembly has further found that: (a) That
Lyme disease is a serious
threat to the health of all Rhode Islanders; (b) That the best
defense that Rhode Island children
have against contracting Lyme disease is awareness and
prevention; and (c) That a structured
program for Lyme disease awareness and prevention is absent

from Rhode Island's mandated health curriculum.

SECTION 4. Chapter 16-22 of the General Laws entitled "Curriculum" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

16-22-25. Lyme disease awareness and prevention program. – The department of elementary and secondary education shall, in collaboration with the department of health, make Lyme disease awareness and prevention resources available for all public school students in the state.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC01197/SUB A/2

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RI Governors Commission on Lyme

The Rhode Island Governors 2001-2001 Commission on Lyme and Other Tick Borne Diseases prepared a report in September 2003 available for public record. On page 9 are details of a public hearing held on April 8, 2002 in which Pat Smith, President, Lyme Disease Association, and Brian Fallon, MD, Director of the Lyme Disease Research at Columbia University testified. [Please click here for pdf](#)