

2022 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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HOUSE BILL NO. 850

Offered January 12, 2022

Prefiled January 12, 2022

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding sections numbered 10.1-200.01 and 22.1-206.1, relating to Lyme disease; signage; instructional resources and materials.*

Patrons—Reid, Shin and Subramanyam

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding sections numbered 10.1-200.01 and 22.1-206.1 as follows:

§ 10.1-200.01. Lyme disease signage.

A. The Department shall develop and post in each state park and interstate park signage addressing the appropriate steps a visitor can take to prevent tick bites, how to identify Lyme disease, and where to seek treatment.

B. The Department shall install such signage first in those areas in the Commonwealth that have been identified as most susceptible to Lyme disease and shall complete the installation of such signage in all state parks and interstate parks by January 1, 2028.

C. Until it completes the installation of all such signage, the Department shall report its progress annually to the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources.

§ 22.1-206.1. Lyme disease; instructional resources and materials.

The Secretary of Education, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Secretary of Natural Resources, shall develop instructional resources and materials to assist school boards and local and regional public libraries in establishing an education and awareness program to protect children from Lyme disease and other tick-borne infections. Such instructional resources and materials (i) shall be appropriate for individuals of school age; (ii) shall provide information on the identification of ticks, recommended procedures for safe tick removal, and best practices to provide protection from ticks; (iii) may include video productions, pamphlets, and demonstration programs to illustrate the sizes of various ticks, including sizes before and after each variety has become engorged, to assist with the identification of a tick and the reaction on the skin that may result from a tick bite; and (iv) shall be made available to school boards and local and regional public libraries upon request at no charge.

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