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**SENATE BILL NO. 971**

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions  
on February 7, 2013)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Black)

A *BILL to require the Department of Health to provide certain information related to Lyme disease on its website.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. § 1.** *In order for health care providers and patients to have additional information on the treatment and diagnosis of Lyme disease, the Virginia Department of Health shall update its website to contain the following information:*

*"IN THE EVENT THAT YOUR PHYSICIAN HAS ORDERED A LABORATORY TEST FOR THE PRESENCE OF LYME DISEASE, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE CURRENT LABORATORY TESTING FOR LYME DISEASE IS NOT PERFECT AND THE ACCURACY OF RESULTS MAY VARY. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU ARE TESTED TOO EARLY, YOU MAY NOT HAVE PRODUCED ENOUGH ANTIBODIES TO CAUSE THE RESULTS TO BE POSITIVE BECAUSE YOUR IMMUNE RESPONSE REQUIRES TIME TO DEVELOP ANTIBODIES. IF YOU ARE TESTED FOR LYME DISEASE AND THE RESULTS ARE NEGATIVE, THIS DOES NOT MEAN YOU DO NOT HAVE LYME DISEASE. YOU SHOULD CONTACT YOUR PHYSICIAN IF YOU CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE UNEXPLAINED SYMPTOMS OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS."*

**§ 2.** *The Department of Health shall distribute information and guidance regarding the occurrence of Lyme disease in the Commonwealth and diagnosis of Lyme disease, including information related to the occurrence of false negative results in testing for Lyme disease, to physicians in the Commonwealth and shall encourage physicians to disseminate such information to patients.*

**2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2015.**