

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB354H1

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Greason

3. **Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. **Title:** Lyme disease; prevention pilot program.

5. **Summary:** This bill, if enacted, would make the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) the lead agency in the implementation of a two-year point of prevention grant program for Lyme disease prevention. Other state agencies providing assistance in the implementation of this program would include the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and the Department of General Services-Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services. It is also thought that the Virginia Division of Forestry would assist in the identification of forest areas to be treated.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see item #8.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2017	\$172,356	2	General
2018	\$172,356	2	General
2019	\$9,909	1	General

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The total fiscal impact this bill would have on the Commonwealth cannot be determined and any fiscal implications are preliminary. The bill as amended creates a point of disease grant program to prevent Lyme disease. The main role of VDH would be oversight and administration of the grant program, consultation in selection of treatment sites, design of a systematic tick collection plan, identification of collection sites, the collection of ticks from study forest areas, preparation of tick samples for testing, and analysis of tick collection and testing data. The estimated per year costs for these VDH functions are \$172,356 a year. In addition to the fiscal impact to cover the cost of implementing the grant program, additional funds would be required in order to grant funds to localities for purchasing and distributing the mouse bait. It is not known how many local jurisdictions would apply to participate in the Lyme disease point of prevention grant program; the number of eligible jurisdictions selected would be somewhat limited by funding available.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will oversee the permitting of bait distribution by agencies or contractors in Virginia localities and the Department of General Services (DGS) Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) will oversee the testing of ticks collected within the designated study areas. DGS has stated that cost per test is estimated at \$34.55 per sample, which includes estimated costs for laboratory testing supplies, reagents, personnel and overhead. It is unknown the number of tests that will be required to support this two-year program.

For purposes of this fiscal estimate, VDH uses an assumption of 1000 treated acres per locality. Based on manufacturers estimate, the cost to purchase and distribute the bait is \$100 per acre for a total of \$100,000 per locality. For each 1000 acres treated, a total of 200 tick samples would be tested from the treatment site (100 samples from the treatment site and 100 samples from an adjacent untreated control site). It will not be known how many ticks VDH can expect to collect until the treatment sites are identified and baseline tick collections are made.

General fund costs will be incurred in meeting the provisions of this bill. VDH estimates \$172,356 in additional general fund support for a State Public Health Entomologist time to hire, train and supervise contract staff and work with the VDH staff, local jurisdictions and the Virginia Department of Forestry to identify treatable forest blocks in parks and along the edges of Lyme endemic neighborhoods, and design and layout designated areas/transects for the treatment; and time to review/analyze data and write report. The costs in FY2019 are for final report writing. VDH would also need a full time contract entomologist to oversee the grant distributions to jurisdictions and conduct tick collections as well as a seasonal contract entomologist to assist with tick survey/collection effort, sample preparation.

The amount of funds required for the purpose of supporting local jurisdictions in this activity would vary according to the number of jurisdictions and acreage to be treated. The cost of baiting would be \$100,000 per locality; therefore, additional general fund costs will be incurred to support each locality. Grant funds could cover each approved jurisdiction's cost of bait as well as personnel to mark out linear transects and distribute the bait along designated transects each week for a total of nine weeks.

The Department of Forestry and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer services have stated that this bill would not impact their agencies. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has stated that the bill would require additional scientific collection permits be issued; however, as they currently handle this process, administration of the additional permits can be absorbed.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Health, Department of General Services, the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Department of Forestry, and the Department of Agriculture.

- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. Other Comments: None.