

2019 SESSION

INTRODUCED

19103490D

HOUSE BILL NO. 2731

Offered January 16, 2019

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 54.1-2963.3, relating to Lyme disease; disclosure of information to patients.

Patrons—Edmunds, Cole, Keam and LaRock

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 54.1-2963.3 as follows:

§ 54.1-2963.3. *Lyme disease testing information disclosure.*

A. Every person licensed pursuant to this chapter or his in-office designee who orders a laboratory test for the presence of Lyme disease shall provide to the patient or his legal representative the following written information:

"ACCORDING TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, INCIDENCE OF LYME DISEASE IS INCREASING RAPIDLY IN THE UNITED STATES.

YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER HAS ORDERED A LABORATORY TEST FOR THE PRESENCE OF LYME DISEASE FOR YOU. CURRENT LABORATORY TESTING FOR LYME DISEASE CAN BE PROBLEMATIC AND STANDARD LABORATORY TESTS OFTEN RESULT IN FALSE NEGATIVE AND FALSE POSITIVE RESULTS. FURTHER, IF TESTING IS CARRIED OUT TOO CLOSE TO THE TIME OF EXPOSURE, YOU MAY NOT HAVE PRODUCED ENOUGH ANTIBODIES TO BE CONSIDERED 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 NECESSARILY MEAN YOU DO NOT HAVE LYME DISEASE. IF YOU CONTINUE TO EXPERIENCE SYMPTOMS, YOU SHOULD CONTACT YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND INQUIRE ABOUT THE APPROPRIATENESS OF RETESTING OR ADDITIONAL TREATMENT."

B. Licensees shall be immune from civil liability for the provision of the written information required by this section absent gross negligence or willful misconduct.

2. That the provisions of this act shall expire on July 1, 2021.

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