



## LYME DISEASE LEGISLATION

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### ISSUE

This report briefly summarizes Connecticut bills dealing with Lyme disease since 2010.

### SUMMARY

Since 2010, 11 bills have been introduced related to various aspects of Lyme disease, including five in 2015. Table 1 below summarizes these bills. Six bills were voted out of committee but none were enacted into law.

For information on Lyme disease in Connecticut, see the Department of Public Health's (DPH) [website](#).

Table 1: Bills on Lyme Disease, 2010 to 2015

Year	Bill	Brief Summary
2015	<a href="#">SB 207*</a>	Would appropriate \$450,000 to DPH for the following grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$170,000 for DPH to develop and implement a Lyme disease prevention social marketing campaign</li> <li>• \$280,000 for the Ridgefield Health Department to develop and implement a regional community prevention program for Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses using the BLAST prevention model.</li> </ul>
2015	<a href="#">SB 686</a> (proposed bill)	Would require DPH to conduct a public symposium on the ramifications of Lyme disease, to hear personal examples of the difficulties associated with the disease and obtain suggestions on dealing with the disease.
2015	<a href="#">HB 5445</a> (proposed bill)	Would establish a task force to study tick-borne illnesses and make recommendations to (1) decrease the number of ticks carrying these illnesses and (2) develop a statewide public education program about these illnesses.
2015	<a href="#">HB 5549</a> (proposed bill)	Would require Lyme disease awareness instruction as part of special education teachers' professional development.
2015	<a href="#">HB 5629*</a>	Would require the governor to proclaim May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month to heighten awareness about symptoms and available treatments.



<b>Year</b>	<b>Bill</b>	<b>Brief Summary</b>
2014	<a href="#">SB 204</a> *	Would require (1) DPH, in consultation with specified organizations, to develop and distribute information on Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses and (2) licensed youth camps to use this information to develop or approve a Lyme disease education and prevention program and inform staff, campers, and campers' parents and legal guardians about the program.
2013	<a href="#">SB 368</a> *	Would (1) establish an advisory council on Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, to help the DPH commissioner develop best practices to prevent, diagnose, and treat these diseases; (2) require the council to annually report to the Public Health Committee; and (3) require the DPH commissioner to report annually to the Public Health Committee on funding and expenditures related to these diseases.
2013	<a href="#">HB 5104</a> *	As reported out of committee, the bill would establish a task force to review policies for Lyme disease testing in Connecticut and other states.  As amended in the House, the bill would require the DPH commissioner, among other things, to (1) prominently post on the department's website specified information on Lyme disease (including a comprehensive list of diagnostic tests), (2) annually review the information and update it as necessary, and (3) report the updates to the Public Health Committee upon the chairpersons' request.
2013	<a href="#">HB 5297</a> (proposed bill)	Would establish a task force to review policies for Lyme disease testing in Connecticut and other states.
2012	<a href="#">HB 5335</a> *	Would establish a task force to review policies for Lyme disease testing in Connecticut and other states.
2011	<a href="#">HB 5934</a> (proposed bill)	Would require Connecticut's health care institutions and providers to adopt Lyme disease screening tests and procedures similar to those in New York.

\* Bill was voted out of committee.

JO:cmg