
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5448

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senate Health Care (originally sponsored by Senator Hatfield)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to the treatment of Lyme disease; creating a new
2 section; and providing an expiration date.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The medical quality assurance
5 commission shall do a study of the effects of long-term antibiotic
6 therapy on patients who have been diagnosed with posttreatment Lyme
7 disease syndrome. The study should include a review of:

8 (a) The antibiotics that are commonly used, prescribed, and
9 administered for the long-term treatment of Lyme disease;

10 (b) The side effects associated with long-term antibiotic
11 therapy;

12 (c) The effectiveness of long-term antibiotic therapy of
13 controlling symptoms for patients who have posttreatment Lyme disease
14 syndrome;

15 (d) Whether allowing physicians in Washington state to administer
16 long-term antibiotic therapy for treating Lyme disease would be
17 beneficial to the health and safety of Washington residents; and

18 (e) Any other aspects of long-term antibiotic therapy that the
19 commission deems important for the health and safety of patients who
20 may receive these treatments.

1 (2) The medical quality assurance commission shall report its
2 findings to the governor and the health care committees of the
3 legislature by December 1, 2015.

4 (3) This section expires July 1, 2016.

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