

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 610

To provide for the establishment of the Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory  
Committee.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. PETERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Tick-Borne Diseases  
Advisory Committee.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A TICK-BORNE DISEASES**  
4 **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
7 Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act as  
8 the “Secretary”) shall establish within the Office of the  
9 Secretary an advisory committee to be known as the Tick-

1 Borne Diseases Advisory Committee (referred to in this  
2 section as the “Committee”).

3 (b) DUTIES.—The Committee shall advise the Sec-  
4 retary and the Assistant Secretary for Health regarding  
5 the manner in which such officials can—

6 (1) ensure interagency coordination and com-  
7 munication and minimize overlap regarding efforts  
8 to address tick-borne diseases;

9 (2) identify opportunities to coordinate efforts  
10 with other Federal agencies and private organiza-  
11 tions addressing such diseases;

12 (3) ensure interagency coordination and com-  
13 munication with constituency groups;

14 (4) ensure that a broad spectrum of scientific  
15 viewpoints is represented in public health policy deci-  
16 sions and that information disseminated to the pub-  
17 lic and physicians is balanced; and

18 (5) advise relevant Federal agencies on prior-  
19 ities related to the Lyme and tick-borne diseases.

20 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

21 (1) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ap-  
23 point the voting members of the Committee  
24 from among individuals who are not officers or  
25 employees of the Federal Government.

1 (B) GROUPS.—The voting members of the  
2 Committee shall include the following:

3 (i) At least 4 members from the sci-  
4 entific community representing the broad  
5 spectrum of viewpoints held within the sci-  
6 entific community related to Lyme and  
7 other tick-borne diseases.

8 (ii) At least 2 representatives of tick-  
9 borne disease voluntary organizations.

10 (iii) At least 2 health care providers,  
11 including at least 1 full-time practicing  
12 physician, with relevant experience pro-  
13 viding care for individuals with a broad  
14 range of acute and chronic tick-borne dis-  
15 eases.

16 (iv) At least 2 patient representatives  
17 who are individuals who have been diag-  
18 nosed with a tick-borne disease or who  
19 have had an immediate family member di-  
20 agnosed with such a disease.

21 (v) At least 2 representatives of State  
22 and local health departments and national  
23 organizations that represent State and  
24 local health professionals.

1           (C) DIVERSITY.—In appointing members  
2           under this paragraph, the Secretary shall en-  
3           sure that such members, as a group, represent  
4           a diversity of scientific perspectives relevant to  
5           the duties of the Committee.

6           (2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Secretary  
7           shall designate, as nonvoting, ex officio members of  
8           the Committee, representatives overseeing tick-borne  
9           disease activities from each of the following Federal  
10          agencies:

11           (A) The Centers for Disease Control and  
12          Prevention.

13           (B) The National Institutes of Health.

14           (C) The Agency for Healthcare Research  
15          and Quality.

16           (D) The Food and Drug Administration.

17           (E) The Office of the Assistant Secretary  
18          for Health.

19           (F) Such additional Federal agencies as  
20          the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

21          (3) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The Secretary shall  
22          designate the Assistant Secretary for Health as the  
23          co-chairperson of the Committee. The appointed  
24          members of the Committee shall also elect a public

1 co-chairperson. The public co-chairperson shall serve  
2 a 2-year term.

3 (4) TERM OF APPOINTMENT.—The term of  
4 service for each member of the Committee appointed  
5 under paragraph (1) shall be 4 years.

6 (5) VACANCY.—A vacancy in the membership of  
7 the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as  
8 the original appointment. Any member appointed to  
9 fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall be ap-  
10 pointed for the remainder of that term. Members  
11 may serve after the expiration of their terms until  
12 their successors have taken office.

13 (d) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall hold public  
14 meetings, except as otherwise determined by the Sec-  
15 retary, after providing notice to the public of such meet-  
16 ings, and shall meet at least twice a year with additional  
17 meetings subject to the call of the co-chairpersons. Agenda  
18 items with respect to such meetings may be added at the  
19 request of the members of the Committee, including the  
20 co-chairpersons. Meetings shall be conducted, and records  
21 of the proceedings shall be maintained, as required by ap-  
22 plicable law and by regulations of the Secretary.

23 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
24 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the  
25 Committee, through the Director of the Centers for Dis-

1 ease Control and Prevention and the Director of the Na-  
2 tional Institutes of Health, shall submit a report to the  
3 Secretary. Each such report shall contain, at a min-  
4 imum—

5 (1) a description of the Committee's functions;

6 (2) a list of the Committee's members and their  
7 affiliations; and

8 (3) a summary of the Committee's activities  
9 and recommendations during the previous year, in-  
10 cluding any significant issues regarding the func-  
11 tioning of the Committee.

12 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the  
13 amounts made available to the Department of Health and  
14 Human Services for general departmental management  
15 for fiscal years 2013 through 2017, there is authorized  
16 to be appropriated \$250,000 for each of such fiscal years  
17 to carry out this Act. Amounts made available to carry  
18 out this Act shall be used for the expenses and per diem  
19 costs incurred by the Committee under this section in ac-  
20 cordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, except  
21 that no voting member of the Committee shall be a perma-  
22 nent salaried employee.

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