

SFA

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Fiscal Agency

• Lansing, Michigan 48909

• (517) 373-5383

Senate Bill 512

Sponsor: Senator Joseph S. Mack

Committee: Human Resources and Senior Citizens

Date Completed: 3-6-90

RECEIVED

APR 18 1990

Mich. State Law Library

SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 512 as introduced 7-12-89:

The bill would amend the Worker's Disability Compensation Act to provide that the term "personal injury" would include Lyme disease or other conditions resulting directly from the bite of the deer tick (*ixodes dammini*), that develop or manifest themselves while the employee is in active service for the State and that result from the performance of duties for the State. This definition would apply for State foresters, game wardens, conservation officers and other State employees whose occupation results in constant exposure to the State forests or other wooded areas.

Lyme disease and other conditions resulting directly from the bite of the deer tick would be considered to arise out of and in the course of employment in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

"Lyme disease" would mean "an illness caused by infection with the spirochete bacterium, *borrelia burgdorferi*, that may be manifested by a variety of symptoms, including, but not limited to, a bull's eye rash, fever, headache, fatigue, numbness, facial paralysis, joint pain, and cardiac arrhythmias".

MCL 418.407

Legislative Analyst: L. Burghardt

FISCAL IMPACT

All State agencies and units of government have experience-rated workers' compensation premiums. The first year in which increased costs could be realized would be the fiscal year immediately following enactment of this legislation. If this bill were passed during the 1989-90 fiscal year, a premium increase could occur for the 1990-91 fiscal year if a claim were filed after enactment but before October 1, 1990. The amount of increase would be determined by the anticipated benefit level during the fiscal year and the amount needed in reserve to cover future benefit liability. The probability of such a premium increase would be a function of the risk of the agency's employees contracting Lyme disease and the number of employees working in potentially infested areas.

Fiscal Analyst: K. Lindquist

S8990\S512SA

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

S.B. 512 (3-6-90)