

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 665

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2015

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

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) APPLICABILITY OF FACCA.—The Tick-Borne Dis-
4 eases Advisory Committee shall be treated as an advisory
5 committee subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

6 (c) DUTIES.—The Committee shall advise the Sec-
7 retary and the Assistant Secretary for Health regarding
8 the manner in which such officials can—

9 (1) ensure interagency coordination and com-
10 munication and minimize overlap regarding efforts
11 to address tick-borne diseases;

12 (2) identify opportunities to coordinate efforts
13 with other Federal agencies and private organiza-
14 tions addressing such diseases;

15 (3) ensure interagency coordination and com-
16 munication with constituency groups;

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

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

23 (d) MEMBERSHIP.—

24 (1) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ap-
2 point the voting members of the Committee
3 from among individuals who are not officers or
4 employees of the Federal Government.

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

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

12 (ii) At least 2 representatives of tick-
13 borne disease voluntary organizations.

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

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

1 (v) At least 2 representatives of State
2 and local health departments from States
3 with the highest incidence of Lyme disease
4 or where Lyme disease is recognized as an
5 emerging threat, or national organizations
6 that represent State and local health pro-
7 fessionals.

8 (C) DIVERSITY.—In appointing members
9 under this paragraph, the Secretary shall en-
10 sure that such members, as a group, represent
11 a diversity of scientific perspectives relevant to
12 the duties of the Committee.

13 (2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Secretary
14 shall designate, as nonvoting, ex officio members of
15 the Committee, representatives overseeing tick-borne
16 disease activities from each of the following Federal
17 agencies:

18 (A) The Centers for Disease Control and
19 Prevention.

20 (B) The National Institutes of Health.

21 (C) The Agency for Healthcare Research
22 and Quality.

23 (D) The Food and Drug Administration.

24 (E) The Office of the Assistant Secretary
25 for Health.

1 (F) Such additional Federal agencies as
2 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

3 (3) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The Secretary shall
4 designate the Assistant Secretary for Health as the
5 co-chairperson of the Committee. The appointed
6 members of the Committee shall also elect a public
7 co-chairperson. The public co-chairperson shall serve
8 a 2-year term.

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

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

19 (e) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall hold public
20 meetings after providing notice to the public of such meet-
21 ings, and shall meet at least twice a year with additional
22 meetings subject to the call of the co-chairpersons. Agenda
23 items with respect to such meetings may be added at the
24 request of the members of the Committee, including the
25 co-chairpersons. Meetings shall be conducted, and records

1 of the proceedings shall be maintained, as required by ap-
2 plicable law and by regulations of the Secretary.

3 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
5 Committee, through the Director of the Centers for Dis-
6 ease Control and Prevention and the Director of the Na-
7 tional Institutes of Health, shall submit a report to the
8 Secretary. Each such report shall contain, at a min-
9 imum—

10 (1) a description of the Committee’s functions;

11 (2) a list of the Committee’s members and their
12 affiliations; and

13 (3) a summary of the Committee’s activities
14 and recommendations during the previous year, in-
15 cluding any significant issues regarding the func-
16 tioning of the Committee.

17 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the
18 amounts made available to the Department of Health and
19 Human Services for general departmental management
20 for fiscal years 2015 through 2019, there is authorized
21 to be appropriated \$250,000 for each of such fiscal years
22 to carry out this Act. Amounts made available to carry
23 out this Act shall be used for the expenses and per diem
24 costs incurred by the Committee under this section in ac-
25 cordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, except

- 1 that no voting member of the Committee shall be a perma-
- 2 nent salaried employee of the Federal Government.

