



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB4274

Introduced 1/16/2024, by Rep. Dan Swanson

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/22-100 new

Amends the School Code. Provides that a school nurse or other designated person employed by a school district shall remove a tick from a student in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Public Health. After the tick has been removed, requires (i) the school nurse or other designated person to notify the parent or guardian of the student (and sets forth what the notice must state), (ii) the school to provide the parent or guardian with an information sheet from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the Department of Public Health regarding the signs and symptoms of Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever and testing labs for ticks, and (iii) the school to preserve the tick for 72 hours so that the parent or guardian may send the tick to a lab for testing and provide information to the parent or guardian on how to send the tick to a lab for testing (but allows the parent or guardian to give the school permission to dispose of the tick before the 72-hour time period has expired). Provides that the Department of Public Health shall issue guidelines on how to remove a tick, publish those guidelines on the Department of Public Health's Internet website, and, in consultation with the State Board of Education, provide the guidelines to school districts. Provides that a school district and its employees and agents shall incur no liability, except for willful or wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from the removal of a tick if the removal of the tick followed the guidelines issued by the Department of Public Health. Effective July 1, 2024.

LRB103 35300 CES 65342 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 22-100 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/22-100 new)

7 Sec. 22-100. Tick removal.

8 (a) A school nurse or other designated person employed by
9 a school district shall remove a tick from a student in
10 accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Public
11 Health. After removal of the tick, all of the following
12 requirements apply:

13 (1) The school nurse or other designated person shall
14 notify the parent or guardian of the student in writing of
15 the tick removal. The notice shall be in substantially the
16 following form:

17 A tick was removed from your child today. Ticks
18 can transmit disease and make people sick. Common
19 illnesses caused by ticks in Illinois are Lyme disease
20 and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

21 Not all tick bites lead to tick-borne diseases.

22 You should record the date on which the tick was
23 removed.

1 It is recommended that you seek medical treatment
2 from your child's health care provider promptly if you
3 notice any early signs or symptoms of illness within 3
4 to 30 days after the date of removal.

5 Some people with Lyme disease will get a bullseye
6 rash. Others may have an atypical rash. Not everyone
7 who has Lyme disease will get a rash. Other symptoms
8 that may occur during the early state of Lyme disease
9 include chills, fever, headache, tiredness, stiff
10 neck, joint pain or swelling, and swollen lymph nodes.
11 Lyme disease is treated with antibiotics. If
12 untreated, infection may progress to joint, heart,
13 brain, or nerve abnormalities.

14 Rocky Mountain spotted fever (RMSF) is a bacterial
15 disease spread through the bite of an infected tick.
16 Most people who get sick with RMSF will have a fever,
17 headache, and rash. RMSF can be deadly if not treated
18 early with the right antibiotic. Early signs and
19 symptoms are not specific to RMSF, including fever and
20 headache. However, the disease can rapidly progress to
21 a serious and life-threatening illness. See your
22 child's health care provider if your child becomes ill
23 after having been bitten by a tick or having been in
24 the woods or in areas with high brush where ticks
25 commonly live. Signs and symptoms may include fever,
26 headache, rash, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, muscle

1 pain, and lack of appetite.

2 Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever are
3 not the only tick-borne diseases with which an
4 individual can be infected after being bitten by a
5 tick.

6 (2) In addition to the notice, the school shall
7 provide the parent or guardian with an information sheet
8 from the federal Centers for Disease Control and
9 Prevention or the Department of Public Health regarding
10 the signs and symptoms of Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain
11 spotted fever and testing labs for ticks.

12 (3) The school shall preserve the tick for 72 hours so
13 that the parent or guardian may send the tick to a lab for
14 testing and shall provide information to the parent or
15 guardian on how to send the tick to a lab for testing.
16 However, the parent or guardian may give the school
17 permission to dispose of the tick before the 72-hour time
18 period has expired.

19 (c) The Department of Public Health shall issue guidelines
20 on how to remove a tick under subsection (a), publish those
21 guidelines on the Department of Public Health's Internet
22 website, and, in consultation with the State Board of
23 Education, provide the guidelines to school districts.

24 (d) A school district and its employees and agents shall
25 incur no liability, except for willful or wanton conduct, as a
26 result of any injury arising from the removal of a tick under

1 subsection (a) if the removal of the tick was conducted
2 following the guidelines issued by the Department of Public
3 Health under subsection (c).

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
5 2024.