
HOUSE BILL 2332

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Kraft, Eslick, Van Werven, Blake, and Orwall

Prefiled 01/09/20. Read first time 01/13/20. Referred to Committee on Health Care & Wellness.

1 AN ACT Relating to the treatment of Lyme disease; adding a new
2 section to chapter 69.41 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

5 (a) Since 2000, there have been over two hundred sixty confirmed
6 cases of Lyme disease in Washington state.

7 (b) Lyme disease is debilitating to those for whom initial
8 antibiotic treatment is not effective, and in many cases results in
9 severe joint pain, memory problems, heart conditions, and the
10 inability to move one or both sides of the face.

11 (c) Many of the individuals suffering from Lyme disease require
12 long-term antibiotic therapy to control symptoms, but doctors are
13 reluctant to provide this therapy due to lack of education in
14 Washington state.

15 (d) Credible long-term therapies have been documented by
16 professional organizations such as the international Lyme and
17 associated diseases society.

18 (e) Many patients who receive these credible treatments for
19 posttreatment of Lyme disease experience relief from their symptoms,
20 dramatically improving their quality of life.

1 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to increase the options
2 for the treatment of Lyme disease by authorizing medical
3 professionals to prescribe, administer, or dispense long-term
4 antibiotic therapies to patients suffering from Lyme disease.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 69.41
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW, an osteopathic
8 physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW, an advanced registered
9 nurse practitioner licensed under chapter 18.79 RCW, a physician
10 assistant licensed under chapter 18.71A RCW, or an osteopathic
11 physician assistant licensed under chapter 18.57A RCW may prescribe,
12 administer, or dispense long-term antibiotic therapy to a patient who
13 has been diagnosed with Lyme disease. The long-term antibiotic
14 therapy must be for a therapeutic purpose that eliminates infections
15 or controls the patient's symptoms related to the patient's diagnosis
16 with Lyme disease.

17 (2) A health care provider acting in compliance with subsection
18 (1) of this section is not subject to professional disciplinary
19 action under chapter 18.130 RCW based solely upon the health care
20 provider's prescribing, administering, or dispensing of long-term
21 antibiotic therapy to a patient who has been diagnosed with Lyme
22 disease.

23 (3) For the purposes of this section, the term "long-term
24 antibiotic therapy" means the administration of oral, intramuscular,
25 or intravenous antibiotics, singly or in combination, for periods of
26 time in excess of four weeks.

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