

131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2100

S.P. 893

In Senate, January 3, 2024

An Act to Require the Reporting of Alpha-gal Syndrome to the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

(EMERGENCY)

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Health and Human Services suggested and ordered printed.

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DAREK M. GRANT Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, President JACKSON of Aroostook, Representative: Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

- 1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not 2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and
- 3 **Whereas,** this Act requires the Department of Health and Human Services to add 4 alpha-gal syndrome, a potentially life-threatening red meat allergy caused by a tick bite, to 5 the list of conditions that must be reported to the Maine Center for Disease Control and 6 Prevention; and
- Whereas, this State has no requirement for reporting alpha-gal syndrome to the Maine
 Center for Disease Control and Prevention, limiting that agency's ability to track and
 respond to occurrences of alpha-gal syndrome; and
- Whereas, rapid availability of data and increased awareness, including physician
 awareness, of the condition could benefit the public health and safety of the people of the
 State; and
- Whereas, this legislation should take effect as soon as possible for the benefit of
 public health; and
- Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,
- 19 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
- 20 Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §802, sub-§1-A is enacted to read:
- 21 <u>1-A. Designation of alpha-gal syndrome as notifiable disease or condition.</u> The 22 department shall designate alpha-gal syndrome, also known as alpha-gal allergy or red meat 23 allergy, as a notifiable disease or condition and require the reporting of occurrences and 24 suspected occurrences of alpha-gal syndrome to the Maine Center for Disease Control and 25 Prevention in the manner described by the department rules governing notifiable diseases 26 and conditions.
- For the purposes of this subsection, "alpha-gal syndrome" means a potentially life threatening tick-borne illness characterized as an allergy to a sugar molecule called alpha gal found in most mammals.
- 30 Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
 31 takes effect when approved.
- 32 SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to add alpha-gal syndrome, a potentially life-threatening red meat allergy caused by a tick bite, to the list of conditions that must be reported to the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention by health care providers and other persons as described in the department rules governing notifiable diseases and conditions.