

# **HB 490 COMMISSION TO STUDY TESTING OF LYME AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES**

MINUTES FOR ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF 10/21/20 ---draft only, not approved.

The meeting was opened at approximately 9:05 am with the reading of the justification for a virtual meeting under the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04.

A roll call was taken with the following being present:

Senator Bradley, Rep. Ticehurst, Rep. Woods, Apar Dave, M.D., Ben Chan, M.D., Carl Tuttle, Kathie Fife, Michelle Wagner, Jeff Parsonnet, M.D., Frank Hubbell, M.D., Rex Carr, M.D. (alternate for Lynn Durand, M.D.)

Absent: Lynn Durand, M.D.

Sen. Bradley noted the need for clarification as to the position of chair of this commission. It was offered that HB490 directed the composition of the commission as well as indicated the first named Representative would act as Chair. Rep. Woods was first named and, therefore, is the designated Chair of this Commission.

The Chair offered a brief note of appreciation for those participating in this Commission. Recognizing the importance of the subject and the time commitment, the Chair expressed appreciation in advance for the work to be done.

It was noted there is a need for a member of this Commission to record the minutes of each meeting. A request was made by the Chair for a volunteer who could begin with the next meeting.

The internet links to review the enacting legislation (HB 490) and the website for the material related to this Commission were provided as part of the notification material. It was noted this material is open to the public.

A review of the charge posed to this Commission by HB 490 was initiated by the Chair. It was emphasized this was not offered as a definitive interpretation by rather a starting point for members to perform their own review in preparation for further discussion at the next Commission meeting. It was offered the charge had two major areas of emphasis. First was testing currently in use with tick-borne diseases. Examining successes and failures in current testing protocols. Also, examining the role of testing in all clinical stages of these diseases—early and late. The second portion of the Commission's charge is to formulate a plan to convey the findings regarding the status of testing to the medical community and the general public.

Comment was also made that evaluation of treatment modalities was not a focus of the intent of the legislation.

In going forward, it was noted the Commission was charged with meeting at least monthly and having a final report by November 1, 2021. It was pointed out that meetings will most assuredly have to be done virtually. This restraint may also impact the flexibility for future meetings due to the limits of technical support from legislative staff and availability for time slots needed for regular legislative hearings.

A request was made to Commission members as to the possibility of one of their organizations having the technical resources to support a meeting. This would greatly increase the flexibility for meetings in terms of both day of week and time of day going forward.

The next meeting was suggested as being in early December. The goal at that time would be for all members to review HB 490 so as to reach a consensus regarding the scope of the charge of the Commission. A second aim for December would be formulating an overall direction going forward. To that end, each member was charged with identifying topics and possibly speakers for those topics in writing and forwarding them to the Chair in advance of the meeting so they could be formulated into a coherent plan for discussion. A preference sheet will be sent to all Commission members by staff so a day and time can be ascertained for the next meeting.

The Chair inquired of other business for the Commission to consider. No further topics were evident. A few areas of clarification were inquired of by Dr. Chan.

Public comments were sought by none were evident.

No other business being evident, a motion to adjourn was made by Sen. Bradley and seconded by Rep. Ticehurst. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous support. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:15 am.

Submitted by Rep. Woods