[118H4412]

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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to award grants to States to implement a tick identification pilot program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GOTTHEIMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to award grants to States to implement a tick identification pilot program.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4   This Act may be cited as the ''Tick Identification

5 Pilot Program Act of 2025''.

SEC. 2. TICK IDENTIFICATION PILOT PROGRAM.

1 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and

2 Human Services, acting through the Director of the Cen-

3 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, may award

4 grants to States to implement a tick identification pro-

5 gram.

6 (b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-

7 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to States that—

8 (1) have more reported cases of Lyme disease

9 and other tick-borne diseases; and

10 (2) submit an effective plan for implementation

11 and maintenance of a tick identification program.

12 (c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—Any program fund-

13 ed under this section shall—

14 (1) allow individuals to submit electronically

15 photo images of ticks encountered;

16 (2) require images of ticks to be submitted with

17 the likely geographic location where the ticks were

18 encountered, the date on which the ticks were en-

19 countered, and the likely physical location where the

20 ticks were found (for example, on a pet, on a

21 human, or loose);

22 (3) after review by a qualified professional, re-

23 spond to the individual directly within 72 hours of

24 the image being received with—

1   (A) if possible, identification of the species

2   and life stage of the tick;

3   (B) if possible, an estimate of the risk that

4   the tick carried a tick-borne disease;

5   (C) a recommendation of the best practices

6   for the individual who encountered the tick, in-

7   cluding with respect to seeking medical evalua-

8   tion and submitting the tick for testing; and

9   (D) additional education on best methods

10   to avoid ticks and prevent contagion of tick-

11   borne illnesses; and

12   (4) maintain a database of reported tick inci-

13   dents, including—

14   (A) the date, geographic location, and envi-

15   ronment of the encounter;

16   (B) any identifying information about the

17   tick that was determined; and

18   (C) best practices that were disseminated

19   to each reporting individual.

20   (d) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant under this sec-

21 tion, a State shall submit an application at such time, in

22 such form, and containing such information as the Sec-

23 retary may prescribe.

24   (e) DATA COLLECTION; REPORT.—

1   (1) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall
2 collect, with respect to each State program funded
3 under this section and each fiscal year, the following
4 data:

5   (A) The number of tick incidents reported.
6   (B) For each incident reported—

7   (i) the date, geographic location, and
8 environment of the encounter;

9   (ii) any identifying information about
10 the tick that was determined; and

11   (iii) best practices that were dissemi-
12 nated to each reporting individual.

13   (2) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the
14 first day of each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029,
15 the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Con-
16 gress a report on the data collected under paragraph
17 (1).

18   (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19   (1) QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL.—The term
20 "qualified professional" means a biologist with a
21 background in vector biology.

22   (2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means
23 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting
24 through the Director of the Centers for Disease
25 Control and Prevention.