

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
90th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2015

As Engrossed: H3/11/15
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1658

By: Representatives J. Mayberry, Tosh

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE TASK FORCE ON ALPHA-GAL; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE TASK FORCE ON ALPHA-GAL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 15, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 20 – Task Force on Alpha-gal

20-15-2001. Findings – Purpose.

(a) The General Assembly finds:

(1) Alpha-gal allergies are a reaction to galactose-alpha-1, 3-galactose, where the body is overloaded with immunoglobulin E antibodies on contact with the galactose carbohydrate;

(2) Bites from the lone star tick, which transfer this carbohydrate to the victim, have been implicated in the development of this delayed allergic response which is triggered by the consumption of mammalian meat products;

(3) Alpha-gal allergies most often occur in the central and southern states such as Arkansas, where the lone star tick is more prevalent;

(4) A typical allergic reaction to Alpha-gal has a delayed onset, occurring four to eight (4-8) hours after the consumption of mammalian meat products, instead of the typical rapid onset with most food allergies;

(5) Since the reaction to eating mammal meat is delayed by



several hours, the proper diagnosis is often missed or misdiagnosed;

(6) People who are affected by Alpha-gal have to be constantly vigilant about the ingredients they consume, because an allergic reaction can be severe and life-threatening; and

(7) As doctors are not required to report the number of patients suffering with Alpha-gal, the true number of affected individuals is unknown.

(b) The purpose of this subchapter is to promote awareness and encourage efforts to treat Alpha-gal in the state.

20-15-2002. Task Force on Alpha-gal – Creation.

(a) The Task Force on Alpha-gal is created.

(b) The task force shall be composed of the following *sixteen (16)* members:

(1) One (1) senator appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

(2) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) The Director of the Department of Health or his or her designee, serving as an ex-officio, nonvoting member;

(4) The Insurance Commissioner or his or her designee, serving as an ex-officio, nonvoting member;

(5) The Secretary of the Arkansas Agriculture Department or his or her designee, serving as an ex-officio, nonvoting member;

(6) Three (3) members who are employed by the Department of Health and designated by the Director of the Department of Health;

(7) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas Hospitality Association;

(8) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing;

(9) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas Pharmacist Association;

(10) One (1) member who is designated by the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology;

(11) One (1) member who is designated by the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; and

(12) Two (2) members who are designated by the Division of

Agriculture of the University of Arkansas.

(c) The terms of the legislative members of the task force shall expire on December 31, 2016.

(d) Nonlegislative members shall serve at the pleasure of the organizations they represent.

(e) Vacancies on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as provided for the initial appointment.

(f) The chair shall be one (1) of the legislative members of the task force and shall be selected by the legislative members of the task force.

(g) The task force shall meet as often as is deemed necessary by the chair.

(h) The chair shall call the first meeting, which shall be held no later than sixty (60) days after July 31, 2015.

(i) The members of the task force shall serve without compensation and shall not receive per diem, mileage, or stipends.

(j) The task force shall receive staff support from the Bureau of Legislative Research.

20-15-2003. Task Force on Alpha-gal – Duties.

(a) The Task Force on Alpha-gal shall make recommendations designed to improve and increase knowledge and treatment throughout the state for alpha-gal, especially for emergency room healthcare professionals.

(b) The task force shall submit a report to the Legislative Council, the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, and the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor no later than October 1, 2016.

/s/J. Mayberry