

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2015  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1658

5 By: Representatives J. Mayberry, Tosh  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE TASK FORCE ON ALPHA-GAL; AND FOR  
9 OTHER PURPOSES.  
10

### Subtitle

11 TO CREATE THE TASK FORCE ON ALPHA-GAL.  
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16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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18 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 15, is amended to add an  
19 additional subchapter to read as follows:

#### Subchapter 20 – Task Force on Alpha-gal

##### 20-15-2001. Findings – Purpose.

##### (a) The General Assembly finds:

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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10 20-15-2002. Task Force on Alpha-gal – Creation.

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

12 (b) The task force shall be composed of the following fourteen (14)  
13 members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (c) The terms of the legislative members of the task force shall

1 expire on December 31, 2016.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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17 20-15-2003. Task Force on Alpha-gal – Duties.

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

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