

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1745

5 By: Representative A. Mayberry
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REENACT AND UPDATE THE LAW CONCERNING THE
9 TASK FORCE ON ALPHA-GAL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
10

Subtitle

11 TO REENACT AND UPDATE THE LAW CONCERNING
12 THE TASK FORCE ON ALPHA-GAL.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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19 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative intent.

20 It is the intent of the General Assembly to reenact the Task Force on
21 Alpha-gal that was repealed by Act 2017, No. 264, § 4, and to update the Task
22 Force on Alpha-gal.
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24 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 15, is amended to add an
25 additional subchapter to read as follows:

26 Subchapter 22 – Task Force on Alpha-gal

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28 20-15-2201. Findings – Purpose.

29 (a) The General Assembly finds:

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

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



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

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

6 (5) Since the reaction to eating mammal meat is delayed by
7 several hours, the proper diagnosis is often missed or the patient is
8 misdiagnosed;

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

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

14 (b) The purpose of this subchapter is to:

15 (1) Promote awareness and encourage efforts to treat Alpha-gal
16 in the state; and

17 (2) Ensure food safety for individuals with Alpha-gal allergies
18 through better food labeling.

19 (c) This section shall expire on December 31, 2020.

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21 20-15-2202. Task Force on Alpha-gal – Creation.

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

23 (b) The task force shall be composed of the following seventeen (17)
24 members:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 (9) One (1) member who is designated by the Arkansas Pharmacists
6 Association;

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

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

11 (12) Two (2) members who are designated by the Division of
12 Agriculture of the University of Arkansas; and

13 (13) One (1) member who is a patient with a diagnosis of Alpha-
14 gal allergies and who is appointed by the Speaker of the House of
15 Representatives.

16 (c) The terms of the legislative members of the task force shall
17 expire on December 31, 2020.

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (j) This section shall expire on December 31, 2020.

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32 20-15-2203. Task Force on Alpha-gal – Duties.

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

36 (b) The task force shall submit a report to the Legislative Council,

1 the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor, and the House
2 Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor no later than October 1
3 annually.

4 (c) This section shall expire on December 31, 2020.

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