



## Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** Res 1496-2000      **Version:** \*      **Name:** Rat-borne diseases  
**Type:** Resolution      **Status:** Filed  
**In control:** Committee on Health

**On agenda:** 8/23/2000

**Enactment date:**      **Enactment #:**

**Title:** Resolution calling upon the Department of Health to test rat carcasses for leptospirosis and other rat-borne diseases in order to identify areas which may be at risk for the spread of these diseases.

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**Indexes:**

**Attachments:**

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
8/23/2000	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
8/23/2000	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
12/31/2001	*	City Council	Filed (End of Session)	

Res. No. 1496

Resolution calling upon the Department of Health to test rat carcasses for leptospirosis and other rat-borne diseases in order to identify areas which may be at risk for the spread of these diseases.

By Council Members Perkins, Robles, Carrion, Malave-Dilan, Eisland, Freed, Henry, Lopez, Marshall, Michels, Nelson, Quinn, Fiala and Stabile; also Council Members Harrison, Koslowitz, Leffler, Robinson, Sabini, Spigner and Wooten

Whereas, There is an enormous rat population throughout the City of New York; and  
Whereas, Rats carry a number of diseases, including arenaviruses and leptospirosis, are hosts to a number of disease-carrying parasites, such as ticks, and aggravate preexisting health conditions, such as asthma, and therefore pose a threat to the public health; and  
Whereas, Rat-borne arenaviruses were recently linked to three deaths in Southern California in the past year; and  
Whereas, Rats are the leading cause of leptospirosis infection in humans; and  
Whereas, According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, if not treated, leptospirosis can lead to meningitis, kidney damage, liver failure, respiratory disease, and even death; and  
Whereas, Because the symptoms of leptospirosis mimic the flu, failure to diagnose the illness is common; and  
Whereas, Notwithstanding widespread failure to diagnose the illness, data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that over the past decade, hundreds of cases of leptospirosis have been positively identified in the United States; and  
Whereas, In November 1996, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases specifically identified inner-city residents as a population at risk for leptospirosis, given the increased rat populations (gauged by rat complaints per year) found in large cities, such as New York City; and  
Whereas, Human infection by leptospirosis and other rat-borne diseases, can be prevented or reduced by effective rat control efforts, as well as disinfection in areas known to be highly populated by infected rats; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Department of Health test rat carcasses for leptospirosis and other rat-borne diseases in order to identify areas which may be at risk for the spread of these diseases.

LS#3325  
JM:ts  
08/10/00

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