

# SJR85 INTRODUCED



1 SJR85  
2 74WDE2V-1  
3 By Senators Melson, Waggoner  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 08-May-24



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SJR\_\_\_ PROCLAIMING JUNE 2024 AS TICK-BORNE DISEASE AND ILLNESS AWARENESS MONTH IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of the residents and visitors to the State of Alabama are of paramount importance to this legislative body; and

WHEREAS, tick-borne diseases and illnesses, including Lyme disease and spotted fever rickettsiosis, which includes Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, become prevalent in the spring and summer seasons; and

WHEREAS, because the symptoms of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses are similar to flu and cold symptoms, these illnesses are often misdiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, tick-borne diseases and illnesses have been on the rise nationally; in Alabama, the number of cases of Lyme disease almost doubled from 36 in 2018 to 66 in 2019; and the number of cases of spotted fever rickettsiosis, the most common tick-borne illness in Alabama, increased from 14 in 2000 to 673 in 2018; and

WHEREAS, researchers have also identified emerging threats from ticks, including a couple of illnesses in humans caused by tick-borne pathogens they previously believed only infected animals; the new Heartland virus, identified in 2009, is carried by lone star ticks; now therefore,



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29           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
30 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That June 2024 is hereby declared  
31 Tick-Borne Disease and Illness Awareness Month; the best  
32 prevention to tick-borne disease and illness is through  
33 encouraging awareness of the symptoms and variety of  
34 diseases and illnesses that ticks carry.