

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 00349**

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Jennifer E. Benson*

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act establishing a public health Lyme disease research institute at the University of Massachusetts Medical School at Worcester .

□.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Jennifer E. Benson</i>	<i>37th Middlesex</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>William N. Brownsberger</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Jennifer L. Flanagan</i>	<i>Worcester and Middlesex</i>
<i>Susan C. Fargo</i>	<i>Third Middlesex</i>
<i>Jeffrey Sánchez</i>	<i>15th Suffolk</i>

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 00349

By Ms. Jennifer E. Benson of Lunenburg, petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 00349) of Carolyn C. Dykema and others relative to establishing a public health Lyme disease research institute at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Joint Committee on Higher Education.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE  
□ HOUSE  
□ , NO. 4471 OF 2009-2010.]

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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**In the Year Two Thousand Eleven**  
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An Act establishing a public health Lyme disease research institute at the University of Massachusetts Medical School at Worcester .

□.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. It is hereby declared that the commonwealth is faced with a serious public  
2 health threat of exposure to tick-borne illnesses, specifically Lyme disease. According to the  
3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from 1992 to 2006, the incidence of Lyme disease  
4 was highest among children 5 to 14 years of age. The persistence of symptomatology in many  
5 patients with Lyme disease without reliable testing makes treatment of patients more difficult. If  
6 an individual with Lyme disease does not receive treatment, such individual can develop severe  
7 heart, neurological, eye, and joint problems. The long-term public health consequences of Lyme

8 disease jeopardizes the well being of a significant number of residents of the commonwealth.  
9 Private funding alone of Lyme disease research cannot address the proliferation of this tick-  
10 borne illness. Without public funding for research of Lyme disease, the public health of the  
11 commonwealth is at risk. By creating a publicly funded institute of research at the University of  
12 Massachusetts Medical School at Worcester, the expenditure of public monies thereto constitutes  
13 serving a valid public health purpose and the enactment of provisions hereinafter set forth is in  
14 the public interest and is hereby so declared to be such as a matter of determination by the  
15 general court.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 29 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section  
17 2ZZZ the following section:-

18 Section 2AAAA. (a) There is hereby established and set up on the books of the commonwealth a  
19 separate fund known as the Lyme Disease Research Institute Trust Fund. The University of  
20 Massachusetts shall hold the fund in an account or accounts separate from other funds or  
21 accounts. Amounts credited to the fund shall be used by the president of the University of  
22 Massachusetts or his designee to provide funding grants to the University of Massachusetts  
23 Medical School at Worcester for Lyme disease research. Amounts credited to the fund shall not  
24 be subject to further appropriation.

25 (b) The president of the University of Massachusetts shall, no later than July 1, annually report to  
26 the house and senate committees on ways and means and the joint committee on public health.  
27 The report shall include: (1) the amounts of non-state funding leveraged as a result of the grants,  
28 including in-kind and other non-cash contributions; (2) an annual statement of cash inflows and

29 outflows detailing the sources and uses of funds; and (3) a detailed breakdown of the purposes  
30 and amounts of administrative costs charged to the fund.

31 SECTION 3. Chapter 75 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 15A  
32 the following section:-

33 Section 15B. (a) There is hereby established the Lyme disease research institute, which shall be  
34 operated under the direction of the University of Massachusetts Medical School at Worcester and  
35 based at the Worcester campus. The institute shall be responsible for conducting research for the  
36 commonwealth on matters related to Lyme disease including the following: (1) the establishment  
37 of epidemiological research objectives to determine the long term course of illness for Lyme  
38 disease; (2) determination of the effectiveness of different treatment modalities by establishing  
39 treatment outcome objectives; (3) the development of sensitive and more accurate diagnostic  
40 tools and tests, including a direct detection test for Lyme disease capable of distinguishing active  
41 infection from past infection; (4) improving the efficient utilization of diagnostic testing  
42 currently available to account for the multiple clinical manifestations of both acute and chronic  
43 Lyme disease; (5) providing for the timely evaluation of promising emerging diagnostic  
44 methods; and (6) the sponsoring of scientific conferences on Lyme disease, including reporting  
45 and consideration of the full spectrum of clinically based knowledge, with the first of such  
46 conferences to be held not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this section.

47 (b) The institute shall maintain the confidentiality of any individual whose personal information  
48 is made available to the institute but compliance with individual confidentiality shall not prevent  
49 the publication of aggregated research information or case studies wherein personal identifiers  
50 have been removed.