
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 245 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY HESS, COHEN, PICKETT, TALLMAN, EMRICK, READSHAW,
DIGIROLAMO, LUCAS, MACKENZIE, KNOWLES, FREEMAN, P. DALEY,
AUMENT, STERN, BAKER, KORTZ, BROOKS, LONGIETTI, O'BRIEN,
KOTIK, O'NEILL, SCHLOSSBERG, HENNESSEY, V. BROWN, ROSS,
SNYDER, DAVIS, EVERETT, CALTAGIRONE, MICOZZIE, NEILSON,
BOBACK, SONNEY, KILLION, HEFFLEY, HAHN, HELM, KAUFFMAN,
MILLARD, CAUSER, SCHLEGEL CULVER, ROCK, NEUMAN, CUTLER,
MARSICO, MALONEY, GOODMAN, CLYMER, HARHART, SWANGER,
D. COSTA, WATSON, MILLER, MAHONEY, PEIFER, C. HARRIS,
GINGRICH, DeLUCA, TOOHL, MAJOR, MOUL AND GROVE,
APRIL 15, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 15, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2013 as "Lyme Disease Awareness
2 Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted
4 primarily by ticks and is caused by the spirochete *Borrelia*
5 *burgdorferi*; and

6 WHEREAS, Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases and
7 disorders, such as babesiosis, Bartonella and ehrlichiosis, pose
8 a serious threat to the quality of life of many Pennsylvanians,
9 with the frequency of diagnosed and reported Lyme disease cases
10 increasing dramatically over the past several years; and

11 WHEREAS, The most recent 15-year surveillance study of the
12 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which study
13 was published in 2008, reveals continued emergence and

1 geographic expansion of Lyme disease across the United States;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The CDC study reports a disproportionate increase
4 among children and recommends a Public Health Action to call for
5 an increase in targeted prevention strategies, tick avoidance,
6 early disease recognition and early treatment interventions; and

7 WHEREAS, From 2006 to 2011, total reported cases of Lyme
8 disease in Pennsylvania have more than doubled; and

9 WHEREAS, Experts forecast a significant surge in Lyme disease
10 for 2012, warning that Northeastern states should be prepared
11 and should notify the public of increased risk and the need for
12 prevention; and

13 WHEREAS, From 2009 to 2011, Pennsylvania has ranked highest
14 in the nation of confirmed cases of Lyme Disease, with a total
15 of 12,987 confirmed cases in the three-year period; and

16 WHEREAS, The most common way to acquire Lyme disease is to be
17 bitten by a tick that carries the spirochete; and

18 WHEREAS, This disease is not limited to age or ethnic
19 boundaries; and

20 WHEREAS, Lyme disease can cause early symptoms, including a
21 rash or flu-like symptoms such as fever, muscle aches, headaches
22 and fatigue, that can easily be misdiagnosed; and

23 WHEREAS, If not caught early, Lyme disease can lead to
24 chronic debilitating illness that is very difficult to
25 eradicate; and

26 WHEREAS, The prevention of Lyme disease and other tick-borne
27 disorders is difficult; and

28 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth can greatly reduce
29 their chance of tick pathogen transmission if they take proper
30 caution while engaged in outdoor activities from early spring

1 through late fall, as well as during a warmer winter season, and
2 make frequent tick checks and remove and dispose of ticks
3 promptly and properly; and

4 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth can greatly reduce
5 the risk of Lyme disease on their properties through landscape,
6 insecticide and other measures found to be effective; and

7 WHEREAS, The early clinical diagnosis and appropriate
8 treatment of these tick-borne disorders and diseases can greatly
9 reduce the risks of continued, diverse and chronic symptoms that
10 can affect every system and organ of the human body and often
11 every aspect of persons' lives; therefore be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
13 month of May 2013 "Lyme Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania
14 in a continued effort to benefit the overall health and quality
15 of life of the citizens of this Commonwealth by increasing their
16 awareness of the threat of infected tick bites and the potential
17 seriousness of Lyme disease and other tick-borne disorders.