

**2018 -- H 8296**

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LC005852  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**SUPPORTING THE RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S "TICK FREE RHODE ISLAND" CAMPAIGN**

Introduced By: Representatives McEntee, Fogarty, Craven, Tanzi, and Knight

Date Introduced: June 06, 2018

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Rhode Island has the fourth highest rate of Lyme disease in the country with  
2 over 900 cases reported each year; and

3           WHEREAS, Washington County consistently has the highest rate of Lyme disease in  
4 Rhode Island; and

5           WHEREAS, Ticks in the state can carry Lyme disease, anaplasmosis, ehrlichiosis,  
6 babesiosis, Powassan, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever; and

7           WHEREAS, Currently, there is no approved vaccine to prevent Lyme disease in people.  
8 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the RI Department of Health recommend  
9 that Rhode Islanders take effective prevention measures against Lyme and other tick-borne  
10 diseases including:

11           (1) Avoiding wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter;

12           (2) Walking in the center of trails;

13           (3) Wearing long pants and long sleeves whenever possible;

14           (4) Tucking pants into socks; and

15           (5) Wearing light colored clothing in order to see ticks more easily; and

16           WHEREAS, The three steps to reducing the risk of contracting Lyme and other Tick-  
17 bourne diseases include:

18           (1) REPEL - When outdoors, use repellents containing 20-30 percent DEET, picaridin,  
19 IR3535, some oil of lemon eucalyptus or para-menthane-diol, and follow the directions on the

1 package. Use products that contain permethrin on shoes and clothing;

2 (2) CHECK – Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors (within 2 hours)  
3 to wash off and more easily find ticks; Conduct a full-body tick check using a hand-held or full-  
4 length mirror to view all parts of your body; Examine gear and pets; Place clothing in a hot dryer  
5 for ten minutes before washing them to kill any ticks; and

6 (3) REMOVE – By grasping an attached tick with tweezers as close as possible to the  
7 attachment (skin) site, and pulling upward and out with a firm and steady pressure. If tweezers  
8 are not available, use fingers shielded with tissue paper or rubber gloves; and

9 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis is helpful in successfully treating tick-borne diseases, and it  
10 is important for people to contact a health care provider if they find a tick attached and are  
11 experiencing any symptoms, including tiredness, body or muscle aches, joint pain, fever, rash,  
12 stiff neck, and facial paralysis; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
14 Providence Plantations hereby supports the Rhode Island Department of Health's "Tick Free  
15 Rhode Island " program and encourages Rhode Islanders of all ages to "Be a Tick Detective" and  
16 "Repel, Check, and Remove" in order to protect themselves from Lyme disease and other tick-  
17 borne diseases; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That this House hereby encourages all the state's residents to join in  
19 recognizing the importance of safeguards and early detection of Lyme disease by speaking with  
20 their health care providers and visiting the Rhode Island Department of Health's webpage and the  
21 University of Rhode Island's Tick Encounter Research Center webpage; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
23 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Director of  
24 the Rhode Island Department of Health.

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