

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 720 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY HESS, SCAVELLO, HENNESSEY, DIGIROLAMO, BAKER, ADOLPH, BEAR, BOBACK, BRENNAN, BROOKS, R. BROWN, CAUSER, CLYMER, CONKLIN, CUTLER, DALEY, EMRICK, EVANKOVICH, J. EVANS, EVERETT, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, HAHN, HARHART, HARKINS, HARPER, HARRIS, HEFFLEY, HELM, HICKERNELL, KAMPF, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, KILLION, KNOWLES, KORTZ, KOTIK, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MALONEY, MARSHALL, MARSICO, METZGAR, MILLARD, MILLER, MUSTIO, OBERLANDER, PASHINSKI, PAYNE, PICKETT, QUINN, READSHAW, ROCK, ROSS, SANTONI, SAYLOR, CULVER, M. SMITH, SONNEY, STABACK, STERN, TOOHL, WATSON AND GABLER, MAY 8, 2012

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 8, 2012

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2012 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, During 2010, Pennsylvania ranked first in the nation
14 with 3,805 confirmed and probable cases, and according to CDC
15 provisional numbers for 2011, an additional increase to 7,484
16 cases was expected, which again would rank Pennsylvania first in
17 the nation; and

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

20 WHEREAS, This disease is not limited to age or ethnic
21 boundaries; and

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

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

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

30 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth can greatly reduce

1 their chance of tick pathogen transmission if they take proper
2 caution while engaged in outdoor activities from early spring
3 through late fall, as well as during a warmer winter season, and
4 make frequent tick checks and remove and dispose of ticks
5 promptly and properly; and

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

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

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
15 month of May 2012 as "Lyme Disease Awareness Month" in
16 Pennsylvania in a continued effort to benefit the overall health
17 and quality of life of the citizens of this Commonwealth by
18 increasing their awareness of the threat of infected tick bites
19 and the potential seriousness of Lyme disease and other tick-
20 borne disorders.