

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 757 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY BAKER, KINSEY, COHEN, BISHOP, READSHAW, MULLERY, NEUMAN, MACKENZIE, CORBIN, MUSTIO, HEFFLEY, O'NEILL, VEREB, THOMAS, SONNEY, LONGIETTI, KORTZ, DAVIS, HARKINS, MASSER, KIRKLAND, V. BROWN, SCAVELLO, FREEMAN, SCHLEGEL CULVER, EMRICK, HELM, CALTAGIRONE, BOBACK, GODSHALL, MIRABITO, YOUNGBLOOD, LUCAS, CUTLER, DIGIROLAMO, KIM, KAUFFMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, HENNESSEY, MILLARD, SAYLOR, STERN, HAHN, D. COSTA, GRELL, MURT, PICKETT, TOOIL, TALLMAN, KILLION, EVERETT, MARSICO, MCNEILL, OBERLANDER, GROVE, ROCK, MAJOR, ROSS, CLYMER, MCCARTER, SWANGER, WATSON, DENLINGER, FLECK, MOUL, C. HARRIS, MILNE, GOODMAN, MAHONEY AND BROOKS, APRIL 3, 2014

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, APRIL 3, 2014

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2014 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

1 was published in 2008, reveals continued emergence and  
2 geographic expansion of Lyme disease across the United States;  
3 and

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

8 WHEREAS, In August 2013, the CDC released a report in which  
9 preliminary estimates indicate approximately 300,000 Americans  
10 are diagnosed with Lyme disease each year, which is  
11 approximately ten times higher than the number of cases  
12 previously reported to the CDC; and

13 WHEREAS, In 2009 and 2011, Pennsylvania ranked highest in the  
14 nation of confirmed cases of Lyme disease; and

15 WHEREAS, From 2002 to 2011, Pennsylvania reported a total  
16 42,032 confirmed cases of Lyme disease; and

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

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

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

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

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

29 WHEREAS, The people of this Commonwealth can greatly reduce  
30 their chance of tick pathogen transmission if they take proper

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

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

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

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
14 month of May 2014 "Lyme Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania  
15 in a continued effort to benefit the overall health and quality  
16 of life of the citizens of this Commonwealth by increasing their  
17 awareness of the threat of infected tick bites and the potential  
18 seriousness of Lyme disease and other tick-borne disorders.