
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 471 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY FLYNN, DAVIS, DRISCOLL, BOYLE, SAINATO, ROTHMAN,
SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY, MILLARD, V. BROWN, NEILSON, D. COSTA,
TALLMAN, READSHAW AND GILLEN, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the United States Food and Drug Administration to
2 promptly consider candidates for Lyme disease vaccinations
3 currently seeking approval under the drug approval process.

4 WHEREAS, Lyme disease threatens the quality of life of
5 residents of and visitors to this Commonwealth and poses a
6 significant economic burden on Pennsylvania and the United
7 States; and

8 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is caused by the bacterium *Borrelia*
9 *burgdorferi* and transmitted to humans through the bite of an
10 infected black-legged tick; and

11 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector-
12 borne illness in the United States, affecting 329,000
13 individuals each year; and

14 WHEREAS, Residents of and visitors to Pennsylvania are
15 especially vulnerable to Lyme disease and tick-borne diseases,
16 as evidenced by this Commonwealth's ranking as the leading state
17 in reported cases; and

18 WHEREAS, A Lyme disease report issued by the Pennsylvania

1 Department of Health in 2014 showed that there were
2 approximately 7,400 cases of Lyme disease in this Commonwealth,
3 compared to 5,900 cases in 2013, which represents a 25% increase
4 from the previous year; and

5 WHEREAS, Each of the 67 counties of this Commonwealth has
6 reported ticks infected with bacteria associated with Lyme
7 disease and other tick-borne diseases; and

8 WHEREAS, In 2015, the Pennsylvania Task Force on Lyme Disease
9 issued a report which highlighted the significant economic
10 burden of Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses on the
11 United States and Pennsylvania; and

12 WHEREAS, More than \$1 billion in annual medical expenses in
13 the United States have been attributed to Lyme disease as well
14 as up to \$10,000 per patient annually in lost productivity; and

15 WHEREAS, Patients with Lyme disease required 87% more visits
16 to the doctor and 71% more visits to the emergency room than
17 those patients without Lyme disease; and

18 WHEREAS, The Task Force on Lyme Disease applied cost
19 estimates to the Commonwealth and determined that, when
20 considering Pennsylvania's approximately 7,400 confirmed and
21 reported Lyme disease cases, the annual estimated cost in lost
22 productivity alone may likely exceed \$74 million; and

23 WHEREAS, Too many residents of and visitors to this
24 Commonwealth have suffered the consequences of Lyme disease and,
25 without action, thousands more remain at risk; and

26 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth has taken important steps regarding
27 awareness, prevention and surveillance of Lyme disease by
28 establishing the Task Force on Lyme Disease and launching the
29 "Don't Let a Tick Make You Sick" campaign; and

30 WHEREAS, While such actions remain an integral part of

1 precautionary efforts, rising statistics and costs represent the
2 need to focus on preventative care and treatment; and

3 WHEREAS, Treatment options exist for individuals diagnosed
4 with Lyme disease but there is currently no vaccination on the
5 market despite one previously being available to consumers; and

6 WHEREAS, LYMERix, which was taken off the market in 2002 due
7 to lack of sales and mounting fears of side effects, was
8 developed by the company currently known as GlaxoSmithKline and
9 approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
10 in 1998; and

11 WHEREAS, Data conducted on LYMERix show no difference in the
12 incidence of adverse events, other than hypersensitivity,
13 between those individuals who received the vaccine and those who
14 did not; and

15 WHEREAS, Recent news has indicated that at least five groups
16 of researchers at companies and academic centers are working on
17 vaccinations for Lyme disease; and

18 WHEREAS, Valneva, a global independent vaccine company,
19 announced in December 2016 that its vaccine candidate against
20 Lyme disease, VLA15, was progressing into clinical testing in
21 the drug approval process following clearance from the FDA;
22 therefore be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
24 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the United States Food and
25 Drug Administration to promptly consider candidates for Lyme
26 disease vaccinations currently seeking approval under the drug
27 approval process; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
29 the United States Food and Drug Administration at 10903 New
30 Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20993-0002.