
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 761 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, BARBIN, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, CALTAGIRONE,
DEAN, HAHN, HARKINS, JAMES, KINSEY, LONGIETTI, McCLINTON,
MILLARD, B. MILLER, MURT, NEILSON, PICKETT, RAPP, READSHAW,
RYAN, SAYLOR, SCHWEYER, STAATS AND WARD, MARCH 15, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, MARCH 15, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Federal Government to allocate significant funds to
2 Pennsylvania to be used for Lyme disease research and data
3 surveillance.

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

7 WHEREAS, There are three main species of ticks in
8 Pennsylvania, which are the blacklegged tick, American dog tick
9 and lone star tick; and

10 WHEREAS, The only species that transmits the bacteria which
11 causes Lyme disease is the blacklegged tick, also referred to as
12 a deer tick; and

13 WHEREAS, For the last six years, this Commonwealth has been
14 ranked highest among all states in the number of confirmed cases
15 of Lyme disease; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2016, Pennsylvania reported 12,200 confirmed
17 cases of Lyme disease, although the Centers for Disease Control

1 and Prevention estimates that the actual cases of Lyme disease
2 can be up to 10 times greater than reported cases, indicating
3 that Pennsylvania could have up to 122,000 cases each year; and

4 WHEREAS, Lyme disease may cause early symptoms, including a
5 rash or flu-like symptoms such as fever, muscle aches, headaches
6 and fatigue, which can be easily misdiagnosed; and

7 WHEREAS, Early clinical diagnosis and appropriate treatment
8 of tick-borne disorders and diseases may significantly reduce
9 the risks of continued, diverse and chronic symptoms, which may
10 adversely affect every system and organ of the human body and
11 often every aspect of an individual's life; and

12 WHEREAS, Lyme disease poses a serious threat to the quality
13 of life of many Pennsylvanians; and

14 WHEREAS, In October 2016, the Pennsylvania Legislative Budget
15 and Finance Committee released a report on the cost estimates to
16 implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Lyme Disease
17 and Related Tick-Borne Diseases; and

18 WHEREAS, With respect to funding, the report highlights that
19 many states receive Federal funding, including grants, for
20 various Lyme disease projects and that Pennsylvania, in
21 comparison to other states, receives very little Federal funding
22 for these purposes; and

23 WHEREAS, Lack of funding leads to lack of data which in turn
24 leads to under-reporting and under-diagnosis; and

25 WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Human Services National
26 Institutes of Health anticipates having a budget of \$22 million
27 this year for Lyme disease research; and

28 WHEREAS, It is currently unknown how much of this money will
29 be utilized or made available for grants to states or other
30 research entities; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the
2 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Federal Government to
3 allocate significant funds from the anticipated \$22 million to
4 Pennsylvania to be used for Lyme disease research and data
5 surveillance; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That certified copies of this resolution be
7 transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice
8 President of the United States, the Secretary of the United
9 States Department of Health and Human Services, the Director of
10 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to each
11 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.