PRINTER'S NO. 502

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 89 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY FLYNN, PICKETT, DONATUCCI, ROTHMAN, SCHLOSSBERG, READSHAW, KAUFFMAN, MILLARD, MURT, McNEILL, KORTZ, BERNSTINE, CALTAGIRONE, BARRAR, HILL-EVANS, PASHINSKI, RADER, FREEMAN AND T. DAVIS, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The number of confirmed cases of Lyme disease in this Commonwealth has been rising since 2013; and

WHEREAS, Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shows that there were approximately 9,250 confirmed cases of Lyme disease in Pennsylvania in 2017, compared to 4,981 cases in 2013, which represents a near 50% increase over four years; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, While the Pennsylvania Task Force on Lyme Disease remains an integral part of precautionary efforts, rising statistics and costs represent the need to focus on preventative

care and treatment; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Investigations conducted on LYMErix show no difference in the incidence of adverse events, other than hypersensitivity, between those individuals who received the vaccine and those who did not; and

WHEREAS, Several groups of researchers are currently working on new vaccines for Lyme disease; and

WHEREAS, Valneva, a global independent vaccine company, announced in July 2018 that its vaccine candidate against Lyme disease, VLA15, successfully concluded Phase 1 clinical trials with the FDA and expects to enter Phase 2 clinical trials by the end of 2018; therefore be it

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

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