
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 301 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, LANGERHOLC, BROWNE, PHILLIPS-HILL,
L. WILLIAMS, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, COLLETT, MENSCH, FONTANA,
J. WARD, CAPPELLETTI, HUTCHINSON, COMMITTA, STREET, COSTA,
KANE, BAKER, PITTMAN AND STEFANO, JUNE 2, 2022

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 2, 2022

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2022 as "Lyme Disease and Tick-
2 Borne Illness Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted
4 primarily by ticks; and

5 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is caused by the spirochete *Borrelia*
6 *burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans through the bite of
7 infected blacklegged ticks; and

8 WHEREAS, Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses such as
9 babesiosis, bartonellosis, anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain spotted
10 fever, ehrlichiosis and others pose a serious threat to the
11 health and quality of life of many residents of this
12 Commonwealth; and

13 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Lyme disease can include fever,
14 headache, fatigue and a characteristic rash called erythema
15 migrans; and

16 WHEREAS, If left untreated, the infection can spread to
17 joints, the heart and the nervous system; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
2 Prevention, Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease
3 in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2019, 8,998 Lyme disease cases were reported in
5 this Commonwealth, but the Centers for Disease Control and
6 Prevention estimate under-reporting by a factor of 10 and
7 project occurrence rates, more accurately, near 90,000; and

8 WHEREAS, From 2000 to 2018, there were 106,718 confirmed Lyme
9 disease cases in this Commonwealth, but due to the fact that the
10 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's number only
11 represents confirmed cases, the actual number of Lyme disease
12 cases may be far greater, possibly more than 1 million; and

13 WHEREAS, Approximately one in four cases of Lyme disease
14 occur in children, and children five to nine years of age are at
15 the greatest risk for contracting Lyme disease; and

16 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania leads the nation in Lyme disease cases;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, The blacklegged tick has been found in all 67
19 counties in this Commonwealth, verifying that every resident,
20 from Erie to Philadelphia, must take precautions to prevent the
21 spread of Lyme disease and tick-borne illnesses; and

22 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth can greatly reduce
23 their chance of tick bites and pathogen transmission during the
24 spring season by taking proper precautions while engaged in
25 outdoor activities, making frequent tick checks and removing and
26 disposing of ticks promptly and properly; and

27 WHEREAS, The Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania, an East
28 Stroudsburg University-affiliated lab, is dedicated to providing
29 free, fast, highly-rated, laboratory-quality tick testing to
30 residents of this Commonwealth for Lyme disease, anaplasmosis,

1 babesiosis, ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever; and

2 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth should be aware of
3 early, disseminated and late/persistent symptoms, and that a
4 negative Lyme test cannot rule out Lyme disease; and

5 WHEREAS, The early clinical diagnosis and appropriate
6 treatment of these tick-borne diseases and illnesses can greatly
7 reduce the risks of continued, diverse and chronic symptoms that
8 can affect every system and organ of the human body and often
9 every aspect of an individual's life; and

10 WHEREAS, "Lyme Disease and Tick-Borne Illness Awareness
11 Month" provides an opportunity to focus on these significant and
12 complex diseases, provides information on prevention and
13 personal protection, raises public awareness of the causes,
14 effects, potential severity, diagnostic challenges and treatment
15 options of Lyme disease and underscores important education
16 efforts surrounding Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses;
17 therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of May 2022 as
19 "Lyme Disease and Tick-Borne Illness Awareness Month" in
20 Pennsylvania in a continued effort to benefit the overall health
21 and quality of life of the residents of this Commonwealth by
22 increasing their awareness of the threat of tick bites and the
23 potential seriousness of Lyme disease and other tick-borne
24 illnesses.