
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 87 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS, LANGERHOLC, MARTIN, CAPPELLETTI,
BARTOLOTTA, COLLETT, BROWN, STEFANO, BREWSTER, COMITTA,
SANTARSIERO, KANE, COSTA, L. WILLIAMS, HUTCHINSON, DILLON AND
J. WARD, APRIL 17, 2023

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, APRIL 17, 2023

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of May 2023 as "Lyme Disease and Tick-
2 Borne Illness Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection caused by the
4 spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is transmitted to humans
5 through the bite of an infected *Ixodes scapularis* tick, also
6 known as a blacklegged tick or deer tick; and

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

12 WHEREAS, Early stage symptoms of Lyme disease can include
13 Erythema migrans (red, oval or round rash), fever, chills,
14 headache, muscle and joint pain and swollen lymph nodes; and

15 WHEREAS, Later stage symptoms of Lyme disease can include
16 severe headaches and neck stiffness, additional Erythema
17 migrans, arthritis with severe joint pain and swelling,

1 particularly the knees and other large joints, facial palsy,
2 intermittent pain in tendons, muscles, joints and bones, heart
3 palpitations or an irregular heartbeat, episodes of dizziness or
4 shortness of breath, inflammation of the brain and spinal cord,
5 nerve pain, shooting pains, numbness or tingling in the hands or
6 feet and problems with short-term memory; and

7 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention, Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease
9 in the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is one of the most common reportable
11 infectious diseases in this Commonwealth; and

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

16 WHEREAS, From 2000 to 2019, there were 115,716 confirmed Lyme
17 disease cases in this Commonwealth, but due to the fact that the
18 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's number only
19 represents confirmed cases, the actual number of Lyme disease
20 cases may be far greater, possibly more than 1 million; and

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

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

28 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth can greatly reduce
29 their chance of tick bites and pathogen transmission during the
30 spring season by taking proper precautions while engaged in

1 outdoor activities, making frequent tick checks and removing and
2 disposing of ticks promptly and properly; and

3 WHEREAS, The Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania, an East
4 Stroudsburg University-affiliated lab, is dedicated to providing
5 free, fast, highly rated, laboratory-quality tick testing to
6 residents of this Commonwealth for Lyme disease, anaplasmosis,
7 babesiosis, ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever; and

8 WHEREAS, Residents of this Commonwealth should be aware of
9 early, disseminated and late and/or persistent symptoms, and
10 that a negative Lyme test cannot rule out Lyme disease; and

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

16 WHEREAS, "Lyme Disease and Tick-Borne Illness Awareness
17 Month" provides an opportunity to focus on these significant and
18 complex diseases, through dissemination of information on
19 prevention and personal protection, raising public awareness of
20 the causes, effects, potential severity, diagnostic challenges
21 and treatment options of Lyme disease and underscoring important
22 education efforts surrounding Lyme disease and other tick-borne
23 illnesses; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of May 2023 as
25 "Lyme Disease and Tick-Borne Illness Awareness Month" in
26 Pennsylvania; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That the Senate continue efforts to benefit the
28 overall health and quality of life of the residents of this
29 Commonwealth by increasing awareness of the threat of tick bites
30 and the potential seriousness of Lyme disease and other tick-

1 borne illnesses.