



2011 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

May 6, 2011 – Introduced by Senators LASEE, KEDZIE, OLSEN, HARSDORF, SCHULTZ, LASSA, HOLPERIN, RISSER and TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives VAN ROY, ZIEGELBAUER, WYNN, HINTZ, WILLIAMS, PETERSEN, SPANBAUER, JACQUE, HEBL, STRACHOTA, WEININGER, A. OTT, E. COGGS, BROOKS, PRIDEMORE, MEYER and JORGENSEN. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** recognizing May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

2 Whereas, Lyme disease is a bacterial illness transmitted by the bite of an
3 infected tick, commonly known as the blacklegged or deer tick, which may be no
4 larger than a poppy seed; and

5 Whereas, while people of all ages can get Lyme disease, children who are under
6 the age of 16, adults who are 40 years of age or older, and individuals who spend time
7 outdoors in tick-infested environments, especially during the warmer months of
8 May to August, appear to be at greater risk; and

9 Whereas, the early stage of Lyme disease can appear within 3 to 30 days after
10 a tick bite and may include a red bull's eye rash, fatigue, chills, fever, headache, stiff
11 neck, muscle or joint pain, or swollen lymph nodes; and

12 Whereas, the later stages of Lyme disease, which may include arthritis (pain
13 and joint swelling), neurologic complications, an irregular heart rhythm, or memory
14 impairment, may not appear until weeks, months, or years after a tick bite; and

1 Whereas, Lyme disease can be treated successfully with oral or injectable
2 antibiotics if it is detected early; and

3 Whereas, diagnosing Lyme disease is difficult because the signs and symptoms
4 commonly mimic other illnesses, and the tests used to diagnose Lyme disease can
5 result in both false negatives and false positives; and

6 Whereas, the best ways to prevent Lyme disease are tick avoidance, personal
7 protection, checking skin for ticks and removing them, learning the early signs of
8 tick-borne illnesses, consulting your doctor after tick bites, and controlling ticks in
9 residential yards; and

10 Whereas, measures to prevent tick bites include using insect repellants with 20
11 to 30 percent DEET on exposed skin, using insect repellants containing permethrin
12 on clothing, tucking long-sleeved shirts into pants and pants into socks or boots to
13 create “tick barriers,” and wearing light-colored clothes that make ticks easier to see;
14 and

15 Whereas, because exposure to ticks is more frequent in wooded and bushy
16 areas, tick exposure can be reduced by walking in the center of hiking trails and
17 landscaping homes with tick-safe zones by using woodchips or gravel along the
18 border between lawn and wooded areas and routinely clearing leaf litter, tall grass,
19 and brush; and

20 Whereas, individuals should check frequently for ticks, paying particular
21 attention to areas where ticks tend to hide, such as the head, scalp, armpits, groin,
22 and behind the knees, and promptly remove ticks by using a pair of thin-bladed
23 tweezers applied as close to the skin as possible to slowly and gently pull the tick’s
24 head away from the skin without squeezing, crushing, or puncturing the body of the
25 tick, which may contain infectious fluids; and

1 Whereas, more than 20,000 cases of Lyme disease have been reported in
2 Wisconsin residents since surveillance for Lyme disease began in 1980; and

3 Whereas, Wisconsin's reported Lyme disease incidence rate has consistently
4 been in the top ten for states in the United States and has doubled during the last
5 decade; and

6 Whereas, while the incidence rate of Lyme disease is markedly higher in the
7 western and northwestern parts of Wisconsin where blacklegged ticks are more
8 prevalent due to greater forested areas, recent tick surveillance shows that ticks are
9 spreading to central and eastern regions of Wisconsin; now, therefore, be it

10 ***Resolved by the senate, the assembly concurring, That*** the members of the
11 Wisconsin legislature do hereby recognize May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month
12 in Wisconsin and commend this observance to all residents; and, be it further

13 ***Resolved, That*** the members of the Wisconsin legislature call upon all
14 residents to learn about the importance of tick avoidance and personal protection,
15 tick detection and removal, the signs and symptoms of tick-borne illnesses, and the
16 need for prompt diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease.

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(END)