

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 26, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 10, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 18**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Chesbro**

**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bill Berryhill, Block, De Leon, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Krekorian, Lieu, Monning, Niello, Portantino, and ~~Smyth~~ Smyth, Adams, Ammiano, Anderson, Arambula, Bass, Beall, Blakeslee, Blumenfield, Brownley, Buchanan, Caballero, Charles Calderon, Carter, Conway, Cook, Coto, De La Torre, DeVore, Duvall, Emmerson, Eng, Evans, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Fuller, Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gilmore, Hagman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Hernandez, Huber, Bonnie Lowenthal, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Nava, Nestande, Nielsen, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Price, Ruskin, Saldana, Skinner, Solorio, Audra Strickland, Swanson, Torlakson, Torres, Torrico, Tran, Villines, and Yamada)**

**(Coauthors: Senators Cox and Wiggins)**

February 3, 2009

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 18—Relative to Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 18, as amended, Chesbro. Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

This measure proclaims the month of May 2009 to be Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is an often misunderstood illness  
2 that can cause serious health problems if not caught early and  
3 treated properly; and

4 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection caused by the  
5 spirochete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and is primarily transmitted by  
6 the bite of an infected tick. The disease was first identified in North  
7 America in the 1970s in Lyme, Connecticut, for which it was  
8 named. The disease has since been found in all 50 states of the  
9 United States and has been reported globally in more than 50  
10 countries, on six continents, and on several islands; and

11 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a complex and multisymptom  
12 illness. Early signs of infection may include rash and flu-like  
13 symptoms, including fever, muscle aches, headaches, and fatigue.  
14 Usually Lyme disease responds well to prompt treatment with  
15 appropriate antibiotics. If untreated or inadequately treated,  
16 however, Lyme disease can invade multiple parts of the body,  
17 including the brain and nervous system. In advanced cases patients  
18 may become increasingly disabled over time and may suffer  
19 crippling muscle and joint pain, neurological impairment,  
20 psychological disorders, and a host of other symptoms that can  
21 lead to financial hardship, job loss, broken families, increased  
22 numbers of people on disability and public support, and even death;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Currently, because there is no reliable form of  
25 testing that can accurately pinpoint Lyme disease, getting a proper  
26 diagnosis and prompt treatment is often extremely difficult; and

27 WHEREAS, According to statistics provided by the federal  
28 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an average of  
29 22,000 new cases of Lyme disease are reported in the United States  
30 each year. The CDC estimates that 90 percent of Lyme disease  
31 cases are unreported, suggesting that the total number of cases is  
32 approximately 220,000 each year. This number is approximately  
33 five times the number of new AIDS cases each year. Up to 40  
34 percent of Lyme disease cases result in long-term health problems,  
35 affecting up to an estimated 88,000 patients annually; and

36 WHEREAS, In California, the bacterium is transmitted by the  
37 western blacklegged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*). This tick is most  
38 common in the coastal regions and along the western slope of the  
39 Sierra Nevada Mountains, but it has also been found in 56 of  
40 California's 58 counties; and

1 WHEREAS, Ticks have three life stages: larval, nymphal, and  
2 adult. Both nymphs and adults can transmit diseases to humans.  
3 Ticks attach themselves to animals such as deer, rodents, and birds  
4 and migrate to new areas with those host animals. In some areas  
5 of California, Lyme disease infection rates of nymphal ticks have  
6 been found to be as high as 42 percent, among the highest in the  
7 entire United States. However, since some areas of the state have  
8 yet to be tested, the true scope of the problem is unknown; and

9 WHEREAS, Although Lyme disease is the most common  
10 vector-borne infection in the United States, the ticks that spread  
11 Lyme disease can also spread other diseases. These coinfections  
12 include diseases like babesiosis, anaplasmosis, and ehrlichiosis.  
13 The presence of coinfections can complicate treatment of Lyme  
14 disease; and

15 WHEREAS, Three new borrelial species belonging to the Lyme  
16 disease spirochetal complex have been described recently,  
17 increasing the number of these bacterial species known to be from  
18 California to five and making California the locus of more distinct  
19 borrelia species than any other geographical region in the United  
20 States; and

21 WHEREAS, The Legislature finds that Lyme disease presents  
22 a health threat to Californians; now, therefore, be it

23 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
24 *thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby proclaims the*  
25 *month of May 2009 to be Lyme Disease Awareness Month; and*  
26 *be it further*

27 *Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies*  
28 *of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.*