

2016 -- S 3068

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2016

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SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY, 2016, TO BE "LYME AND OTHER TICK BORNE DISEASES MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senator Stephen R. Archambault

Date Introduced: June 09, 2016

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island was recently reported to have the second highest  
2 rate of infection in the nation by the Lyme disease spirochetes, with suspected case numbers  
3 exceeding 8,000 a year for a single genotype; and

4 WHEREAS, All Rhode Islanders are afforded treatment for tick borne diseases pursuant  
5 to Chapter 37.5 of Title 5 and Chapters 18 through 20 of Title 27 of the Rhode Island General  
6 Laws which ensures treatment freedom for medical providers and guarantee payments by  
7 insurance companies for prescribed diagnostics and treatments for patients; and

8 WHEREAS, Guidelines for the treatment of tick borne diseases, including Lyme, are  
9 certified and listed by the National Guidelines Clearing House, a division of the United States  
10 Department of Health and Human Services. Recent changes include the decertification and  
11 delisting of the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) guidelines as antiquated and  
12 failing to meet accepted guidelines standards, and the listing and inclusion of the International  
13 Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS) Guidelines; and

14 WHEREAS, The singular use of the antibiotic, doxycycline, is known to drive Borrelia  
15 Spirochetes, including Lyme, into cystic forms resulting in chronic illness for as many as 20 to 30  
16 percent of the infected population, guaranteeing difficult and prolonged treatments that may last a  
17 lifetime; and

18 WHEREAS, All the citizens of Rhode Island have the inalienable right to dignified,  
19 courteous and respectful medical services, however, oftentimes, what should be a cooperative and

1 scholarly quest for the best treatment of tick borne diseases, including Lyme, has become a  
2 polarized divide within the medical field resulting in abandonment, bullying and other dismissive  
3 behaviors towards patients seeking help, even though numerous laws and regulations including  
4 the Federal Civil Rights Act, and numerous state laws, statutes and codes of ethical behavior,  
5 including those of the American Medical Society and the Rhode Island Department of Health  
6 strictly prohibit such practices; and

7 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island now has three tick borne diseases that are  
8 endemic, babesia, bartonella and borrelia. Due diligence by doctors and patients alike, with  
9 proper differential diagnoses, is required for recognition and treatment for the health of all Rhode  
10 Islanders. In addition, all state agencies and departments concerned with public health also need  
11 to be aware of these three endemic tick borne diseases; and

12 WHEREAS, Education concerning the awareness, detection and prevention of the tick  
13 borne diseases, including Lyme is a priority; now, therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
15 hereby proclaims the month of May, 2016, to be "Lyme and Other Tick Borne Diseases Month"  
16 in the state. We moreover encourage all state residents to join in recognizing the importance of  
17 this month; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
19 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Nicole Alexander-Scott, MD, MPH, Director of  
20 the Rhode Island Department of Health.

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