

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 79**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**211th LEGISLATURE**

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ADOPTED MAY 27, 2004

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BRIAN E. RUMPF**

**District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)**

**Assemblyman CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS**

**District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

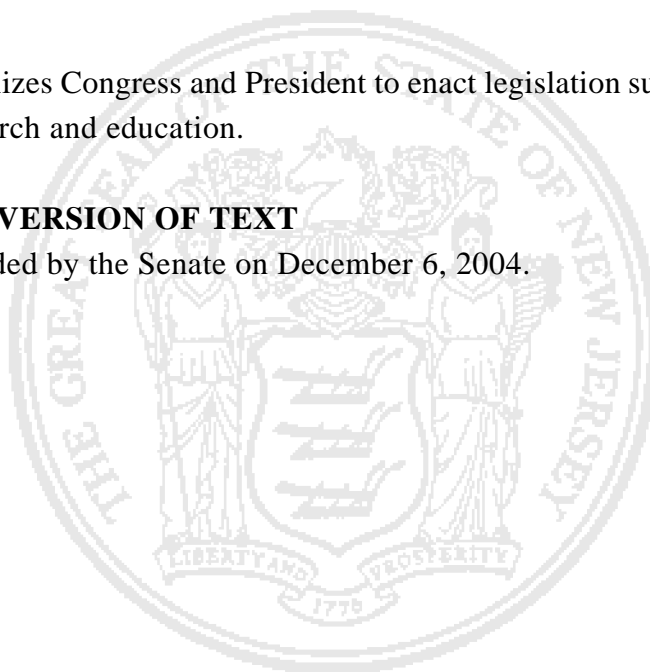
**Assemblymen Chivukula, Gibson, Senators Connors, Allen and  
Assemblyman Gusciora**

**SYNOPSIS**

Memorializes Congress and President to enact legislation supporting Lyme disease research and education.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the Senate on December 6, 2004.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2005)

- 1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing the Congress and  
2 President of the United States to enact legislation supporting Lyme  
3 disease research and education.  
4
- 5 **WHEREAS**, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that is spread by  
6 certain arthropods, primarily ticks, and is a significant public health  
7 problem in New Jersey; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, If untreated, Lyme disease, in its later stages, can result in  
9 neurological disorders, including, but not limited to, chronic and  
10 severe fatigue, encephalitis, meningitis, memory loss, dementia and  
11 seizures, severe arthritis, cardiac dysfunction, vision loss,  
12 gastrointestinal disorders, paralysis, stroke and death; and
- 13 **WHEREAS**, The United States Centers for Disease Control and  
14 Prevention has reported that Lyme disease represents the most  
15 common tick-borne illness in the nation; and
- 16 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has a disproportionately large number of the  
17 nation's total of reported Lyme disease patients; according to data  
18 compiled by the State Department of Health and Senior Services,  
19 2,459 new cases of Lyme disease were reported in New Jersey in  
20 2000, which represented the third highest incidence rate  
21 nationwide after Connecticut and Rhode Island, with the highest  
22 rates of infection occurring in the counties of Atlantic, Bergen,  
23 Gloucester, Hunterdon, Monmouth, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and  
24 Warren; and
- 25 **WHEREAS**, The incidence of Lyme disease continues to increase in  
26 some endemic areas and has emerged as a significant threat to  
27 public health in the northeastern United States, which, along with  
28 Wisconsin, accounts for 95% of the nationally reported cases; and
- 29 **WHEREAS**, Legislation has been introduced in the Congress of the  
30 United States <sup>1</sup>[in prior years, sponsored by Congressman  
31 Christopher Smith of this State,]<sup>1</sup> that would call on the Secretary  
32 of Health and Human Services, along with other agencies, to  
33 develop a five-year action plan to advance the treatment of and  
34 cure for Lyme disease, and to assist in establishing a coordinated  
35 federal effort in Lyme disease research and education<sup>1</sup>, including  
36 the establishment of a Tick-Borne Disorders Advisory Committee  
37 within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services<sup>1</sup>;  
38 and
- 39 **WHEREAS**, It is the obligation of the federal government to mount a  
40 full-scale campaign to bring relief to the thousands of individuals  
41 who suffer from Lyme disease, many of them children, by enacting

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup> Senate floor amendments adopted December 6, 2004.

1 legislation that supports a comprehensive research and education  
2 effort, fosters inter-agency coordination and creates a framework  
3 within which the federal government can further the search for  
4 effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for Lyme disease; now,  
5 therefore,

6

7 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*  
8 *Jersey (the Senate concurring):*

9

10 1. The Congress of the United States is respectfully memorialized  
11 to pass, and the President to sign into law, legislation that would  
12 advance the treatment of, and cure for, Lyme disease by supporting a  
13 comprehensive and coordinated effort in Lyme disease research and  
14 education.

15

16 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the  
17 Speaker of the General Assembly and the President of the Senate and  
18 attested by the Clerk of the General Assembly and the Secretary of the  
19 Senate, shall be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Congress  
20 of the United States and each of the members of the United States  
21 Congress elected from the State of New Jersey.