ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 79

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
211th LEGISLATURE

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)
A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing the Congress and President of the United States to enact legislation supporting Lyme disease research and education.

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is a bacterial infection that is spread by certain arthropods, primarily ticks, and is a significant public health problem in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, If untreated, Lyme disease, in its later stages, can result in neurological disorders, including, but not limited to, chronic and severe fatigue, encephalitis, meningitis, memory loss, dementia and seizures, severe arthritis, cardiac dysfunction, vision loss, gastrointestinal disorders, paralysis, stroke and death; and

WHEREAS, The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that Lyme disease represents the most common tick-borne illness in the nation; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey has a disproportionately large number of the nation's total of reported Lyme disease patients; according to data compiled by the State Department of Health and Senior Services, 2,459 new cases of Lyme disease were reported in New Jersey in 2000, which represented the third highest incidence rate nationwide after Connecticut and Rhode Island, with the highest rates of infection occurring in the counties of Atlantic, Bergen, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Monmouth, Morris, Somerset, Sussex and Warren; and

WHEREAS, The incidence of Lyme disease continues to increase in some endemic areas and has emerged as a significant threat to public health in the northeastern United States, which, along with Wisconsin, accounts for 95% of the nationally reported cases; and

WHEREAS, Legislation has been introduced in the Congress of the United States [in prior years, sponsored by Congressman Christopher Smith of this State.] that would call on the Secretary of Health and Human Services, along with other agencies, to develop a five-year action plan to advance the treatment of and cure for Lyme disease, and to assist in establishing a coordinated federal effort in Lyme disease research and education, including the establishment of a Tick-Borne Disorders Advisory Committee within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, It is the obligation of the federal government to mount a full-scale campaign to bring relief to the thousands of individuals 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:
1 Senate floor amendments adopted December 6, 2004.
legislation that supports a comprehensive research and education
effort, fosters inter-agency coordination and creates a framework
within which the federal government can further the search for
effective treatments and, ultimately, a cure for Lyme disease; now,
therefore,

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

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

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