

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 35

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman FARRAGHER and Assemblyman MALONE

- 1 AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION designating May <sup>1</sup>[1996] 1997<sup>1</sup> as "Lyme  
2 Disease Awareness Month."  
3  
4 WHEREAS, Lyme Disease is a bacterial infection spread by deer ticks that  
5 initially causes flu-like symptoms and, in about 50% of the cases, a rash  
6 resembling a bulls-eye; later stages of the disease, which occur months and  
7 years after the initial tick bite, can produce neurological problems, cardiac  
8 disease and a chronic and debilitating form of arthritis; and  
9 WHEREAS, Because symptoms are varied, non-specific and can mimic those  
10 of other illnesses, the diagnosis of Lyme Disease can be difficult.  
11 Serological tests can help doctors identify the disease but they are not  
12 reliable due to the fact that in earlier stages of the illness the tests are not  
13 helpful in making a diagnosis and they are not standardized; and  
14 WHEREAS, 70% of Lyme Disease cases occur between the months of May  
15 and August, but off-season activity among ticks has been known to  
16 increase if there is a warming period during the winter months; and  
17 WHEREAS, <sup>1</sup>[786 new cases were reported in New Jersey in 1993] From  
18 1993 to 1996, the number of new Lyme Disease cases reported in New  
19 Jersey nearly tripled, from 786 to 2,190;<sup>1</sup> and the State ranks third  
20 nationally in Lyme Disease cases, <sup>1</sup>[with 5,413 of the total 57,206 cases  
21 reported nationally from 1984 to 1993] behind only New York and  
22 Connecticut<sup>1</sup>. The number of cases may actually be higher since many are  
23 misdiagnosed or not diagnosed at all because some victims recover without  
24 seeking medical attention; and  
25 WHEREAS, Lyme Disease is a treatable illness that can be prevented if certain  
26 precautionary steps are taken, including wearing long sleeves, tucking pants  
27 into socks when in a wooded area and using insect repellent; and  
28 WHEREAS, Increased public awareness can help the State combat this  
29 important health problem; now, therefore,

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> Assembly AHL committee amendments adopted May 12, 1997.

1

2 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

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4 1. The month of May <sup>1</sup>[1996] 1997<sup>1</sup> shall be designated "Lyme Disease  
5 Awareness Month."

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7 2. The Governor is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the  
8 public officials and the citizens of this State to observe the month with  
9 appropriate activities and programs.

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Designates May 1997 as "Lyme Disease Awareness Month."