

1-1 By: Hunter (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.C.R. No. 152
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 13, 2009;
1-3 May 14, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Administration; May 22, 2009, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 22, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Lyme disease, the most frequently diagnosed
1-8 insect-borne disease in the country, was first confirmed in Texas
1-9 in 1984; since then, countless state residents have suffered the
1-10 effects of this painful disease, yet their efforts to seek
1-11 appropriate medical care are often stymied; and

1-12 WHEREAS, Transmitted by the bite of an infected tick or flea,
1-13 Lyme disease is caused by a specialized type of bacteria called a
1-14 spirochete; people of all ages are susceptible to the disease,
1-15 which can cause skin, joint, heart, and nervous system problems and
1-16 which, if not adequately treated, can continue for months or years;
1-17 and

1-18 WHEREAS, Most easily and effectively treated during its early
1-19 stage, the disease is commonly overlooked because many people do
1-20 not realize that they have been bitten; a bull's-eye rash is the
1-21 only certain sign of Lyme disease, but not everyone who has been
1-22 infected develops a rash, and other symptoms may not occur until as
1-23 many as eight weeks after a bite; diagnosis is further complicated
1-24 by the fact that the biological markers of the disease are not
1-25 necessarily reliable and do not always appear in laboratory tests;
1-26 the longer a person has the disease, the harder it is to eradicate;
1-27 and

1-28 WHEREAS, Although some studies have shown that most patients
1-29 can be cured of Lyme disease with a few weeks of oral antibiotics,
1-30 many patients continue to report symptoms long after an initial
1-31 round of treatment; in those cases, the International Lyme and
1-32 Associated Diseases Society recommends continuing antibiotic
1-33 treatment "for several months after clinical and laboratory
1-34 abnormalities have begun to resolve and symptoms have disappeared";
1-35 however, because this method differs from the one promoted by the
1-36 Infectious Disease Society of America and other organizations,
1-37 health care professionals often face the loss of their medical
1-38 licenses for pursuing it; and

1-39 WHEREAS, The number of Texas physicians who attempt to treat
1-40 chronic Lyme disease patients has shrunk, and
1-41 patients--debilitated by such symptoms as fatigue, muscle and joint
1-42 pain, headaches, nausea, anxiety, depression, and Bell's
1-43 palsy--are forced to either travel out of state to gain access to
1-44 care or forgo treatment altogether; now, therefore, be it

1-45 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
1-46 hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house
1-47 of representatives to provide for a joint interim legislative study
1-48 on the availability of medical treatment for patients with Lyme
1-49 disease in Texas.

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