

By: Bolton

H.R. No. 767

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives is committed to
2 supporting initiatives that safeguard the health of our state's
3 residents, and in that spirit, the members of this chamber are
4 promoting greater awareness of Lyme disease, which is a significant
5 threat that can cause a range of serious symptoms and long-term
6 health problems; and

7 WHEREAS, Often transmitted to humans by the bite of infected
8 blacklegged ticks and sometimes by fleas or other insects, Lyme
9 disease is the most frequently diagnosed tick-borne or insect-borne
10 infection in the nation; though often associated with eastern parts
11 of the United States and California, the disease has been present in
12 the Lone Star State since at least the mid-1980s and may have
13 afflicted as many as 20,000 Texans; and

14 WHEREAS, Symptoms of Lyme disease often begin with flu-like
15 ailments, including fatigue, headache, fever and chills, joint
16 pain, backache, sore throat, and nausea; these may be accompanied
17 by a skin rash or a red area around the insect bite that may expand
18 or take on a ring-like appearance; and

19 WHEREAS, If left untreated, Lyme disease can impact the heart
20 and nervous system, causing irregular heartbeat, headaches, sleep
21 disturbances, emotional instability, vision problems, and many
22 other ailments; in stage three of the disease, victims may
23 experience temporary or chronic arthritis and neurological
24 abnormalities; and

1 WHEREAS, By recognizing the symptoms, individuals can seek
2 medical assistance early on, when antibiotic treatment is most
3 effective; but the best way to stop Lyme disease is to avoid it;
4 Texans can reduce their chances of being infected by taking
5 precautions such as using insect repellent during outdoor
6 activities, by wearing long pants and tucking them into boots or
7 socks, and by keeping their pets free of ticks and fleas; and

8 WHEREAS, Education may be the most important defense against
9 Lyme disease, and the residents of the Lone Star State are
10 encouraged to learn more about this dangerous infection and the
11 best ways to treat and prevent it; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
13 Legislature hereby promote greater public awareness of Lyme disease
14 and urge all Texans to become better informed about its dangers and
15 symptoms.