

Date of Hearing: May 18, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 203 (Hoover) – As Introduced May 11, 2026

SUBJECT: Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

SUMMARY: Proclaims the month of May 2025 as Lyme Disease Awareness Month. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Lyme disease is a bacterial infection caused by the spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi* and is primarily transmitted by the bite of an infected tick. The disease was first identified in North America in the 1970s in Lyme, Connecticut, for which it was named. Since that time, the disease has been found in all 50 states in the United States. The reach of Lyme disease is global, having been reported in more than 60 countries on six continents and several islands.
- 2) Lyme disease is an often misunderstood illness that can cause serious health problems if it is not caught early and properly treated.
- 3) Early signs of infection may include rash and flu-like symptoms, including fever, muscle aches, headaches, and fatigue. Usually, the disease responds well to prompt treatment with appropriate antibiotics. If untreated or inadequately treated, however, Lyme disease can invade multiple organs of the body, including the brain and the rest of the nervous system. In those instances, patients can become increasingly disabled over time, suffering crippling muscle and joint pain, neurological impairment, psychological disorders, and a host of other symptoms that can lead to financial hardship, job loss, and increased numbers of people on disability.
- 4) Since there is no reliable form of testing that can accurately pinpoint Lyme disease, getting a proper diagnosis and prompt treatment is often extremely difficult. Patients with Lyme disease are frequently misdiagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis, and various psychiatric illnesses, including depression. Misdiagnosis of these other diseases often delays the correct diagnosis and treatment, while the underlying infection progresses.
- 5) Lyme disease affects people of all ages but is most common in children and older adults, and in people who spend time outdoors in wooded, grassy areas, including park rangers and firefighters.
- 6) In California, the Lyme disease bacterium is transmitted by the western blacklegged tick (*Ixodes pacificus*). Ticks are active year-round, especially when it is wet. Thus, this tick is most common in the coastal regions and along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada range, but has been found in 56 of California's 58 counties.
- 7) In some areas of California, Lyme disease infection rates of nymphal ticks have been found to be as high as 42 percent. Thus, the infection rate in certain regions of California is among the highest in the entire United States. However, because some areas of the state have not been tested for tick infection, the true scope of the problem is not known.

- 8) Recently, three new *Borrelia* species belonging to the Lyme disease spirochetal complex have been described, thus increasing the number of these bacteria known to occur in California to five, making California the locus of more distinct *Borrelia* species than any other geographical region in the United States.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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