

# HOUSE BILL 1168

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By: **Delegates Lee and Pena-Melnyk**  
Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2012  
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Commemorative Months – Lyme Disease Awareness**  
3 **Month**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to proclaim a certain month as Lyme  
5 Disease Awareness Month.

6 BY adding to  
7 Article – State Government  
8 Section 13–504  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

11 Preamble

12 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of the citizens of Maryland is of the  
13 utmost importance; and

14 WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Lyme  
15 disease is the most common rapidly emerging infectious disease not limited to age,  
16 ethnicity, or geographical area; and

17 WHEREAS, Ticks transmitting Lyme disease can be found in woods, parks,  
18 yards, and on beaches throughout Maryland and the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, Increasing numbers of new cases of Lyme disease are reported each  
20 year in Maryland and across the United States, while numerous cases go unreported  
21 or undetected; and

22 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is transmitted by the bite of a tick infected with the  
23 bacteria *Borrelia burgdorferi* which often results in early symptoms, such as a

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 bull's-eye rash, a fever, aching or stiff muscles and joints, a headache, and fatigue;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, As an illness caused by the painless bite of a tiny deer tick, Lyme  
4 disease causes serious problems involving the heart, joints, and nervous system in  
5 humans and animals; and

6 WHEREAS, Lyme disease is difficult to diagnose because it imitates other  
7 conditions and there is no reliable test to determine infection; and

8 WHEREAS, Detection of the disease is difficult because early symptoms vary  
9 and will disappear only to later reappear in a more serious and difficult-to-treat form;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Checking for ticks and proper tick removal are imperative, and if  
12 done correctly and promptly, can aid in the prevention of the disease; and

13 WHEREAS, All citizens of Maryland should become educated and aware of the  
14 signs and symptoms, prevention tactics, and treatment of Lyme disease; now,  
15 therefore,

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – State Government**

19 **13-504.**

20 **IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED FOR INCREASED AWARENESS OF LYME**  
21 **DISEASE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF MAY EACH YEAR AS**  
22 **LYME DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH.**

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
24 October 1, 2012.