

By: Representative DeLano

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 318

1 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE MONTH OF MAY OF EACH YEAR AS "LYME
2 DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH"; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

3 WHEREAS, Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses are
4 found across the State of Mississippi and throughout the United
5 States; and

6 WHEREAS, ticks, the primary transmitter of Lyme disease, are
7 carried by animals that Mississippi citizens encounter every day;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, researchers have identified more strains and species
10 of the Lyme spirochetal bacteria *Borrelia burgdoferi* in the
11 Southeastern United States than in any other region of the
12 country; and

13 WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
14 estimate that 300,000 people are diagnosed with Lyme disease in
15 the United States every year; and

16 WHEREAS, because diagnosing Lyme disease can be difficult,
17 many people who actually have Lyme disease may be misdiagnosed
18 with other conditions; and



19 WHEREAS, prompt treatment with adequate antibiotic therapy in
20 the early stage of infection may cure Lyme disease; however, in
21 some cases, untreated or inadequately treated Lyme disease can
22 lead to death or permanent disability; and

23 WHEREAS, Lyme disease can affect the brain, heart, joints and
24 other organs of the body, often mimicking other illnesses; and

25 WHEREAS, all symptoms following tick bites should be taken
26 seriously; and

27 WHEREAS, the best protection from becoming seriously ill with
28 Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases is education about
29 ticks, the diseases they carry, and proper protection and
30 prevention: NOW, THEREFORE,

31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

32 **SECTION 1.** The month of May of each year is designated as
33 "Lyme Disease Awareness Month" to promote education and awareness
34 of Lyme disease and how it can be prevented and treated.

35 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
36 and after its passage.

