

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4981

To provide for the issuance of a Lyme Disease Research Semipostal Stamp.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 15, 2025

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To provide for the issuance of a Lyme Disease Research  
Semipostal Stamp.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Stamp Out Lyme Dis-  
5       ease Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8               (1) The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
9       vention (CDC) estimate that 476,000 Lyme disease

1 cases are diagnosed and treated in the United States  
2 annually.

3 (2) The CDC reports that Lyme disease is dif-  
4 ficult to diagnose due to its diverse manifestations  
5 and a lack of reliable testing options.

6 (3) The National Institutes of Health (NIH) re-  
7 ports that a significant number of later-stage or  
8 post-treatment Lyme disease patients are not cured.

9 (4) The Tick-Borne Disease Working Group re-  
10 ports that 10 to 20 percent of Lyme disease patients  
11 will suffer from persistent symptoms which can be  
12 chronic and disabling.

13 (5) According to the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg  
14 School of Public Health, Lyme disease costs the  
15 United States healthcare system up to  
16 \$1,300,000,000 per year.

17 (b) PURPOSE.—To afford a convenient way for mem-  
18 bers of the public to contribute to funding for Lyme dis-  
19 ease and related tick-borne illness research within the Na-  
20 tional Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the  
21 United States Postal Service shall issue a semipostal  
22 stamp (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Lyme  
23 Disease Research Semipostal Stamp”) in accordance with  
24 this section.

1 **SEC. 3. LYME DISEASE RESEARCH SEMIPOSTAL STAMP.**

2 (a) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The issuance and sale  
3 of the Lyme Disease Research Semipostal Stamp shall be  
4 governed by the provisions of section 416 of title 39,  
5 United States Code, and regulations issued under such  
6 section.

7 (b) DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—All amounts becoming avail-  
9 able from the sale of the Lyme Disease Research  
10 Semipostal Stamp (as determined under section  
11 416(d) of such title 39) shall be transferred to the  
12 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Dis-  
13 eases, for the purpose described in subsection (a),  
14 through payments which shall be made at least twice  
15 a year.

16 (2) PROCEEDS NOT TO BE OFFSET.—In accord-  
17 ance with section 416(d)(4) of such title 39,  
18 amounts becoming available from the sale of the  
19 Lyme Disease Research Semipostal Stamp (as so de-  
20 termined) shall not be taken into account in any de-  
21 cision relating to the level of appropriations or other  
22 Federal funding to be furnished in any year to the  
23 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Dis-  
24 eases.

25 (c) DURATION.—The Lyme Disease Research  
26 Semipostal Stamp shall be made available to the public

1 for a period of at least 6 years, beginning no later than  
2 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 (d) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this Act, the term  
4 “semipostal stamp” refers to a stamp described in section  
5 416(a)(1) of title 39, United States Code.

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