



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

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### S.B. 117

131st General Assembly  
(As Reported by S. Health and Human Services)

**Sens.** Yuko and Hughes, Cafaro, Thomas, Brown, Tavares, Manning, Gardner, Beagle, Hite

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Designates October as "Rett Syndrome Awareness Month."

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Rett Syndrome Awareness Month

The bill designates October as "Rett Syndrome Awareness Month."<sup>1</sup>

Rett syndrome is a genetic neurodevelopmental disorder that affects girls almost exclusively. It is characterized by normal early growth and development followed by a slowing of development, loss of purposeful use of the hands, distinctive hand movements, slowed brain and head growth, problems with walking, seizures, and intellectual disability. Medical experts point out that children with Rett syndrome often exhibit autistic-like behaviors in the early stages. The course of Rett syndrome, including the age of onset and the severity of symptoms, varies from child to child.<sup>2</sup>

Although Rett syndrome is a genetic disorder, less than one percent of recorded cases are inherited or passed from one generation to the next; most cases occur randomly. Rett syndrome is estimated to affect one in every 10,000 to 15,000 live female births and all racial and ethnic groups worldwide.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 5.2298.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Strokes, *Rett Syndrome Fact Sheet* (last updated February 23, 2015), available at [http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/rett/detail\\_rett.htm](http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/rett/detail_rett.htm).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

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## HISTORY

### ACTION

### DATE

Introduced

03-09-15

Reported, S. Health & Human Services

06-17-15

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