



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Elizabeth Molnar

S.B. 133

131st General Assembly
(As Reported by H. Health & Aging)

Sens. Beagle, Eklund, Schiavoni, Hughes, Yuko, Oelslager, Bacon, Gardner, Hite, Lehner, Tavares, Brown, Balderson, Burke, Coley, Faber, Jones, LaRose, Manning, Obhof, Patton, Peterson, Thomas

Reps. Huffman, Antonio, Barnes, Bishoff, Brown, Butler, T. Johnson, Kuhns, LaTourette, Ramos, Sykes

BILL SUMMARY

- Designates June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month."

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Scleroderma Awareness Month

The bill designates the month of June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month."¹

Scleroderma is a group of rare diseases that involve the hardening and tightening of the skin and connective tissues — the fibers that provide the framework and support for the human body. In some people, scleroderma affects only the skin. But in many others, scleroderma also harms structures beyond the skin (such as blood vessels, internal organs, and the digestive tract). Signs and symptoms vary depending on which structures are affected.²

Scleroderma most commonly occurs between the ages of 30 and 50 and affects women more often than men.³ It is estimated that about 300,000 Americans have scleroderma. The exact cause or causes are still unknown and most patients who suffer

¹ R.C. 5.2298.

² Mayo Clinic, *Diseases and Conditions: Scleroderma*, available at <<http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/scleroderma/basics/definition/con-20021378>>.

³ *Id.*

from scleroderma do not have any relatives with the disease. Research indicates that there is a susceptibility gene, which raises the likelihood of a person developing scleroderma, but by itself does not cause the disease.⁴

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-18-15
Reported, S. Health & Human Services	06-17-15
Passed Senate (32-0)	06-24-15
Reported, H. Health & Aging	11-19-15

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⁴ Scleroderma Foundation, *What is scleroderma?*, available at http://www.scleroderma.org/site/PageNavigator/patients_what.html#.VV45mE10yzc.

