



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

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### **S.B. 133**

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

**Sens.** Beagle, Eklund, Schiavoni, Hughes, Yuko, Oelslager, Bacon, Gardner, Hite, Lehner, Tavares, Brown

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

- Designates June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month."

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## **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

### **Scleroderma Awareness Month**

The bill designates June as "Scleroderma Awareness Month."<sup>1</sup>

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 people, 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.<sup>2</sup>

Scleroderma affects women more often than men and most commonly occurs between the ages of 30 and 50.<sup>3</sup> About 300,000 Americans have scleroderma. The exact cause or causes of scleroderma are still unknown, and most patients who suffer from it do not have any relatives with scleroderma. Research indicates that there is a

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

<sup>2</sup> Mayo Clinic, *Diseases and Conditions: Scleroderma* (last visited June 17, 2015), available at <http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/scleroderma/basics/definition/con-20021378>.

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

susceptibility gene (which raises the likelihood of getting scleroderma), but by itself does not cause the disease.<sup>4</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-18-15
Reported, S. Health & Human Services	06-17-15

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<sup>4</sup> Scleroderma Foundation, *What is scleroderma?* (last visited June 17, 2015), available at <[http://www.scleroderma.org/site/PageNavigator/patients\\_what.html#.VV45mE10yzc](http://www.scleroderma.org/site/PageNavigator/patients_what.html#.VV45mE10yzc)>.

