

**As Introduced**

**128th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2009-2010**

**S. B. No. 117**

**Senators Miller, D., Coughlin**

**Cosponsors: Senators Turner, Strahorn, Miller, R., Smith, Schuler,  
Schiavoni**

**—**

**A B I L L**

To enact section 5.2239 of the Revised Code to 1  
designate the month of May as "Multiple Chemical 2  
Sensitivity Awareness Month." 3

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 5.2239 of the Revised Code be enacted 4  
to read as follows: 5

**Sec. 5.2239.** The general assembly finds all of the following: 6

(A) Multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS) is a chronic 7  
condition that is induced by exposure to toxic environmental 8  
chemicals and causes neurological, pulmonary, cardiac, and 9  
rheumatic health effects. People with MCS typically have strong 10  
reactions to chemicals commonly found in the environment such as 11  
perfumes, deodorants, paints, coatings on outdoor fences and 12  
furniture, chemicals applied to rugs and carpets, exhaust from 13  
vehicles, and chemicals used in office equipment. 14

(B) A national population study conducted in 2005, by Dr. 15  
Stanley M. Caress of the university of West Georgia and Dr. Anne 16  
C. Steinemann of the university of Washington indicated that 17  
eleven and two-tenths per cent of the study sample showed 18

hypersensitivity to chemicals and two and five-tenths per cent had 19  
been diagnosed with MCS. 20

(C) As a result of the chemical barriers caused by MCS and 21  
because there is no known cure for MCS, its sufferers also 22  
experience major personal, financial, employment, housing, and 23  
social consequences. Although MCS is recognized by the Americans 24  
with Disabilities Act, the United States environmental protection 25  
agency, and the world health organization, it is not well 26  
understood and, as a result, MCS sufferers are often thought to 27  
have imagined rather than real symptoms. 28

(D) People with MCS deserve the same rights, respect, and 29  
support that is provided to people with other illnesses and 30  
disabilities. 31

(E) MCS awareness is critical in workplaces, the medical 32  
community, school systems, and other public places across the 33  
state in order to help people with MCS prevent environmental 34  
triggers and develop lifestyles that accommodate living with MCS. 35  
Additionally, there are simple steps that citizens may take such 36  
as reducing engine idling and observing precautions in the use of 37  
paints and coatings in order to improve the environment for people 38  
who suffer with MCS. 39

(F) The month of May frequently has been used to highlight 40  
MCS awareness efforts in other states. 41

In order to increase the awareness of and to encourage 42  
helpful responses to multiple chemical sensitivity in the state, 43  
the month of May is designated as "Multiple Chemical Sensitivity 44  
Awareness Month." 45