

**As Introduced**

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

**S. B. No. 54**

**Senator Roberts**

**Cosponsors: Senators Miller, D., Turner, Smith, Morano, Seitz, Fedor,  
Schuler**

**—**

**A BILL**

To enact sections 5.2239 and 3701.136 of the Revised 1  
Code to designate November as "Complex Regional 2  
Pain Syndrome Awareness Month" and to require the 3  
Department of Health to include on its web site 4  
information regarding the syndrome. 5

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

**Section 1.** That sections 5.2239 and 3701.136 of the Revised 6  
Code be enacted to read as follows: 7

**Sec. 5.2239.** The month of November is designated as "Complex 8  
Regional Pain Syndrome Awareness Month" to promote public 9  
awareness of complex regional pain syndrome, also known as reflex 10  
sympathetic dystrophy syndrome. 11

**Sec. 3701.136.** (A) As used in this section, "complex regional 12  
pain syndrome" or "CRPS," also known as reflex sympathetic 13  
dystrophy syndrome, means a debilitating and progressively chronic 14  
syndrome characterized by severe burning pain, pathological 15  
changes in bone and skin, excessive sweating, tissue swelling, and 16  
extreme sensitivity to touch. 17

(B) The department of health shall include information on its web site to promote complex regional pain syndrome education in a manner that enables individuals to make informed decisions about their health. The information on the web site shall include all of the following: 18  
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(1) The cause and nature of CRPS; 23

(2) The risk factors that contribute to the manifestation of CRPS; 24  
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(3) Available treatment options, including the risks and benefits of those options; 26  
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(4) Information on environmental safety and injury prevention; 28  
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(5) Information on rest and the use of appropriate body mechanics; 30  
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(6) Information on the availability of CRPS diagnostic, treatment, and outreach services; 32  
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(7) Information concerning any other factors or elements that might mitigate the effects of CRPS. 34  
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(C) The department shall notify boards of health, hospitals, clinics, and other health care providers about the availability of information concerning CRPS on the department's web site. 36  
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**Section 2.** Section 3701.136 of the Revised Code, as enacted by this act, shall take effect ninety days after the effective date of this act. 39  
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**Section 3.** (A) As used in this section, "complex regional pain syndrome" or "CRPS" has the same meaning as in section 3701.136 of the Revised Code. 42  
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(B) The General Assembly finds and declares all of the 45

following with respect to complex regional pain syndrome: 46

(1) CRPS occurs in five per cent of all cases of nerve 47  
injuries. 48

(2) CRPS is thought to be a neuropathic pain syndrome that 49  
generally occurs at the site of a minor or major trauma injury, 50  
but may also occur without an apparent injury. 51

(3) While the cause of CRPS is unknown, the syndrome is 52  
thought to be the result of damaged nerves of the sympathetic 53  
nervous system. 54

(4) The syndrome is unique in that it simultaneously affects 55  
the nerves, skin, muscles, blood vessels, and bones, and if 56  
untreated, can result in permanent disability and chronic pain. 57

(5) CRPS is often misdiagnosed because the syndrome is either 58  
unknown or poorly understood. The prognosis for patients suffering 59  
from CRPS is generally much better when CRPS is identified and 60  
treated as early as possible. 61

(6) If treatment is delayed CRPS can quickly spread to an 62  
entire limb and changes in bone and muscle may become 63  
irreversible, resulting in limited mobility, atrophy of the 64  
muscles, and eventual permanent disability. 65

(7) Since a delay in the diagnosis or treatment of CRPS can 66  
result in severe physical and physiological problems, and early 67  
recognition and prompt treatment of CRPS provides the greatest 68  
opportunity for recovery, it is in the best interest of the public 69  
to require the Department of Health to include information on its 70  
web site pursuant to section 3701.136 of the Revised Code to 71  
educate both individuals and medical professionals regarding this 72  
debilitative condition. 73

**Section 4.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the 74  
"Complex Regional Pain Syndrome Education Act." 75