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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

S.B. 250

125th General Assembly
(As Reported by S. Health, Human Services & Aging)

**Sens. Coughlin, Harris, Mumper, Fedor, Fingerhut, Goodman, Schuler,
Randy Gardner, Carey, Miller, Mallory**

BILL SUMMARY

- Designates the month of May as "Ohio Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month."

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Ohio Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month

The bill designates the month of May of each year as "Ohio Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month." The bill provides that this designation is intended to increase public awareness of the disease, including its causes and health effects, and to encourage and support research to develop effective medical therapies.

COMMENT

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that causes the body to produce abnormal mucus that can block pathways to the lungs and lead to severe lung infections. Symptoms of cystic fibrosis include salty skin, persistent coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, abnormal appetites, and gastrointestinal problems. Adults living with cystic fibrosis are likely to be sterile or unable to carry a baby to term due to the effects of cystic fibrosis. Adults with cystic fibrosis may also suffer from diabetes or osteoporosis related to cystic fibrosis.

Cystic fibrosis is caused by a genetic defect--when both parents carry the defective gene, there is a 25% chance that their child will develop cystic fibrosis. It is estimated that 10 million Americans carry the gene that causes cystic fibrosis, but do not suffer from cystic fibrosis themselves. Approximately 1,000 new cases of cystic fibrosis are diagnosed in the United States each year.

There are several forms of treatment for cystic fibrosis. The primary goal is to keep the lungs clear of the abnormal mucus that leads to infection. This may be

done through simple means, such as clapping the back to clear the lungs, or through more complicated techniques, including the use of antibiotics and other drugs to keep the lungs clear. The expected lifespan for individuals with cystic fibrosis varies, but the median age of survival is 33. With newer treatments, the lifespan has increased dramatically; now 40% of individuals living with cystic fibrosis are adults.¹

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	05-27-04	p. 2082
Reported, S. Health, Human Services & Aging	11-18-04	p. 2300

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¹ *The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, www.cff.org (last visited 10/20/04).*