

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass

Vote: 9 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Clem, Conger, Harker, Kennemer, Keny-Guyer, Lively, Thompson, Weidner, Greenlick

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Tyler Larson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/1, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires facility performing mammogram to notify patient of results and possible increased risk of breast cancer and advise patient to contact their health care provider regarding appropriateness of supplemental testing if mammogram indicates dense breast tissue. Prohibits cost-sharing for mammograms and breast ultrasounds meeting specified criteria. Defines dense breast tissue. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difficulty of discerning dense breast tissue from tumors in mammogram
- 40 percent of women have dense breast tissue, and are four to six times more likely to get breast cancer
- Most women don't know their breast density and how it complicates mammogram results
- Importance of early detection in breast cancer outcomes

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Breast density is a measure used to describe the proportion of the different tissues that make up a woman's breast. Breast density compares the area of the breast and connective tissue seen on a mammogram to the area of fat. Breast and connective tissue are denser than fat and this difference shows up on a mammogram. High breast density means there is a greater amount of breast and connective tissue compared to fat, and this difference makes detection of tumors in mammograms more difficult.

Proponents assert that women with high breast density are four to six times more likely to get breast cancer than women with low breast density. Senate Bill 420-A seeks to raise awareness and educate women about dense breast tissue, its risk factors, and the limitations of mammograms for women with dense breast tissue.