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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - BREAST CANCER PATIENT NOTIFICATION

Introduced By: Senators Coyne, DiMario, Kallman, Quezada, Valverde, Sosnowski,
Gallo, Lawson, de la Cruz, and Euer

Date Introduced: March 18, 2021

Referred To: Senate Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-12.7-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-12.7 entitled "The
2 Breast Cancer Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-12.7-3. Program established.**

4 (a) Through funding from the Rhode Island Cancer Council, the Rhode Island department
5 of health is required to establish a program of free mammography screening according to American
6 Cancer Society standards, and, where required, follow-up, diagnostic testing, and case management
7 for women in the state who are uninsured or underinsured.

8 (b) The screening program shall:

9 (1) Secure radiology facilities to participate in the screening program;

10 (2) Pay for screening mammograms;

11 (3) Ensure that screening results are sent ~~directly~~ [by mail, electronically, or otherwise](#), to
12 the patient in a timely manner;

13 (4) Provide diagnostic tests as required to diagnose breast cancer;

14 (5) Provide case management facilitating appropriate contact to breast surgeons, medical
15 oncologists, and radiation oncologists; and

16 (6) Provide follow-up support to women who are found to have breast cancer as a result of
17 this screening program.

18 (c) The director of the Rhode Island department of health is required to provide a quarterly
19 report to the general assembly on the program of free mammography screening, follow up

1 diagnostic testing and case management, and public education. An advisory committee concerned
2 with advocacy, outreach, and public education shall meet on a quarterly basis and report to the
3 director.

4 SECTION 2. Section 23-12.9-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-12.9 entitled "Dense
5 Breast Notification and Education" is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 **23-12.9-2. Public policy goals -- Department of health.**

7 The department of health, through the Rhode Island Cancer Council, is authorized and
8 mandated to implement the following public health policy goals as they relate to dense breast
9 notification in Rhode Island. Commencing on October 1, 2014, all healthcare facilities that perform
10 mammography examinations shall include in the summary of the mammography report to be
11 provided to a patient [by mail, electronically, or otherwise](#), information that identifies the patient's
12 individual Breast Tissue Classification based on the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System
13 established by the American College of Radiology. If the facility determines that a patient has
14 heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts, the summary of the mammography report shall also
15 include the following notice:

16 "Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is
17 relatively common and is found in about forty percent (40%) of women. The presence of dense
18 tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancers in the breast by mammography because it can
19 hide small abnormalities and may be associated with an increased risk. Hence, you may benefit
20 from supplementary screening tests, which may include a breast ultrasound screening, or a breast
21 MRI examination, or both, depending on your individual risk factors.

22 We are providing this information to raise your awareness of this important factor and to
23 encourage you to discuss your dense breast tissue, as well as other breast cancer risk factors, with
24 your healthcare provider. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you.

25 A report of your results was sent to your physician. You should contact your physician if
26 you have any questions or concerns about this report."

27 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

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1 This act would now allow for a summary of a patient's mammography report be provided
2 to the patient by mail, electronically, or otherwise.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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