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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2024

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A N A C T

RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- DENSE BREAST NOTIFICATION AND  
EDUCATION

Introduced By: Representatives Kislak, Fogarty, Ajello, Boylan, Speakman, Corvese,  
Potter, Cruz, Morales, and Caldwell

Date Introduced: February 28, 2024

Referred To: House Health & Human Services

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 23-12.9-2 of the General Laws in Chapter 23-12.9 entitled "Dense  
2 Breast Notification and Education" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **23-12.9-2. Public policy goals — Department of health.**

4 (a) The department of health, through the Rhode Island Cancer Council, is authorized and  
5 mandated to implement the following public health policy goals as they relate to dense breast  
6 notification in Rhode Island. Commencing on October 1, 2014, all healthcare facilities that perform  
7 mammography examinations shall include in the summary of the mammography report to be  
8 provided to a patient by mail, electronically, or otherwise, information that identifies the patient's  
9 individual Breast Tissue Classification based on the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System  
10 established by the American College of Radiology. ~~If the~~

11 (b) ~~The~~ facility ~~determines that a patient has heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts,~~  
12 ~~the summary of the mammography report~~ shall also include the following mandated FDA National  
13 Reporting Standard for breast density patient notification language in notice to the patient:

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

1 ~~MRI examination, or both, depending on your individual risk factors.~~

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

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

7 (1) If NOT DENSE: "Breast tissue can be either dense or not dense. Dense tissue makes it  
8 harder to find breast cancer on a mammogram and also raises the risk of developing breast cancer.  
9 Your breast tissue is not dense. Talk to your healthcare provider about breast density, risks for  
10 breast cancer, and your individual situation."

11 (2) If DENSE: "Breast tissue can be either dense or not dense. Dense tissue makes it harder  
12 to find breast cancer on a mammogram and also raises the risk of developing breast cancer. Your  
13 breast tissue is dense. In some people with dense tissue, other imaging tests in addition to a  
14 mammogram may help find cancers. Talk to your healthcare provider about breast density, risks  
15 for breast cancer, and your individual situation."

16 (c) A written report from the facility to referring providers shall include assessment of  
17 breast density, classified as one of the following:

18 (1) The breasts are almost entirely fatty;

19 (2) There are scattered areas of fibroglandular density;

20 (3) The breasts are heterogeneous dense, which may obscure small masses; or

21 (4) The breasts are extremely dense, which lowers the sensitivity of mammography.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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- 1           This act would amend the notice requirement to patients to follow the mandated FDA
- 2 national reporting standards following a mammogram.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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