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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **SB 249**

#### ***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BREAST HEALTH AND BREAST CANCER AWARENESS WORKING GROUP.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill makes various changes to the Department of Public Health's (DPH) breast and cervical cancer early detection and treatment referral program, which provides screening and related services to certain income-eligible women. The bill:

1. requires the program to give priority consideration to women in minority communities with higher rates of breast cancer and cervical cancer than the general population,
2. requires breast cancer screening through the program to include tomosynthesis where possible,
3. adds human papillomavirus (HPV) tests to the program's services, and
4. makes conforming changes by adding references to tomosynthesis and HPV tests to the educational and outreach components of the program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

#### **BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT REFERRAL PROGRAM**

By law, this program provides services, within existing appropriations and through contracts with health care providers, to women who (1) have incomes at or below 250% of the federal poverty level, (2) are 21 to 64 years old, and (3) lack health insurance coverage for breast cancer screening mammography or cervical cancer screening services.

Under existing law, the program's services include clinical breast exams, screening mammograms, and pap tests. The bill requires the program's mammography services to include, where possible, tomosynthesis, which it defines as a digital x-ray mammogram that creates two- and three-dimensional images of the breasts. The bill additionally requires the program to include HPV tests.

As under existing law, these services must be provided as recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force guidelines for the woman's age and medical history. By law, the program also includes pap tests every six months for women who are HIV positive.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 31 Nay 0 (03/11/2022)