



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 96

February Session, 2022

Senate Bill No. 249

Senate, March 23, 2022

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. DAUGHERTY ABRAMS of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-266 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

3 (a) For purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Breast cancer screening and referral services" means necessary
5 breast cancer screening services and referral services for a procedure
6 intended to treat cancer of the human breast, including, but not limited
7 to, surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy and
8 related medical follow-up services.

9 (2) "Cervical cancer screening and referral services" means necessary
10 cervical cancer screening services and referral services for a procedure
11 intended to treat cancer of the human cervix, including, but not limited
12 to, surgery, radiation therapy, cryotherapy, electrocoagulation and

13 related medical follow-up services.

14 (3) "Tomosynthesis" means a digital x-ray mammogram that creates
15 two-dimensional and three-dimensional images of the breasts.

16 ~~[(3)]~~ (4) "Unserved or underserved populations" means women who
17 are: (A) At or below two hundred fifty per cent of the federal poverty
18 level for individuals; (B) without health insurance that covers breast
19 cancer screening mammography or cervical cancer screening services;
20 and (C) twenty-one to sixty-four years of age.

21 (b) There is established, within existing appropriations, a breast and
22 cervical cancer early detection and treatment referral program, within
23 the Department of Public Health, to (1) promote screening, detection
24 and treatment of breast cancer and cervical cancer among unserved or
25 underserved populations, while giving priority consideration to women
26 in minority communities who exhibit higher rates of breast cancer and
27 cervical cancer than the general population, (2) educate the public
28 regarding breast cancer and cervical cancer and the benefits of early
29 detection, and (3) provide counseling and referral services for treatment.

30 (c) The program shall include, but not be limited to:

31 (1) Establishment of a public education and outreach initiative to
32 publicize breast cancer and cervical cancer early detection services and
33 the extent of coverage for such services by health insurance; the benefits
34 of early detection of breast cancer and the recommended frequency of
35 screening services, including clinical breast examinations and
36 mammography, which shall include, where possible, tomosynthesis;
37 and the medical assistance program and other public and private
38 programs and the benefits of early detection of cervical cancer and the
39 recommended frequency of pap tests and tests for human
40 papillomavirus;

41 (2) Development of professional education programs, including the
42 benefits of early detection of breast cancer and the recommended
43 frequency of mammography and the benefits of early detection of

44 cervical cancer and the recommended frequency of pap tests and tests
45 for human papillomavirus;

46 (3) Establishment of a system to track and follow up on all women
47 screened for breast cancer and cervical cancer in the program. The
48 system shall include, but not be limited to, follow-up of abnormal
49 screening tests and referral to treatment when needed and tracking
50 women to be screened at recommended screening intervals;

51 (4) Assurance that all participating providers of breast cancer and
52 cervical cancer screening are in compliance with national and state
53 quality assurance legislative mandates.

54 (d) The Department of Public Health shall provide unserved or
55 underserved populations, while giving priority consideration to women
56 in minority communities who exhibit higher rates of breast cancer and
57 cervical cancer than the general population, within existing
58 appropriations and through contracts with health care providers: (1)
59 Clinical breast examinations, screening mammograms, [and] which
60 shall include, where possible, tomosynthesis, pap tests and tests for
61 human papillomavirus, as recommended in the most current breast and
62 cervical cancer screening guidelines established by the United States
63 Preventive Services Task Force, for the woman's age and medical
64 history; and (2) a pap test every six months for women who have tested
65 HIV positive.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2022	19a-266

PH *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

This bill makes certain changes to the Department of Public Health's breast and cervical cancer early detection and treatment referral program, which provides screening and related services to certain income-eligible women. The bill is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact as screening for tomosynthesis and testing for human papillomavirus (HPV) are currently being performed.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

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)