


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: October 31, 2018

SUBJECT: Fiscal Impact Statement – Breast Density Screening and Notification Act of 2018

REFERENCE: Bill 22-960, Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 15, 2018

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 through 2022 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

Background

The bill requires health care facilities to notify patients of mammogram results that show high breast density.¹ The mammogram results must include the following notice:

“Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is relatively common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancers in the breast by mammography because it can hide small abnormalities and may be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. Hence, you may benefit from supplementary screening tests, which may include a breast ultrasound screening, or a breast MRI examination, or both, depending on your individual risk factors.

This information is given to you to raise your awareness. Use this information to talk to your health care provider about your own risks for breast cancer. At that time, ask your health care provider if additional screening and/or tests may be useful based on your risk.

¹ Category C or D Breast Tissue Classification based on the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System established by the American College of Radiology. See: <https://www.acr.org/-/media/ACR/Files/RADS/BI-RADS/Mammography-Reporting.pdf>

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: "Breast Density Screening and Notification Act of 2018," Bill 22-960, Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on October 15, 2018

A report of your results was sent to your health care provider. You should contact your health care provider if you have any questions or concerns about this report."

The bill also requires² insurers to cover baseline mammograms for women, annual screening mammograms for women, and a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) or an ultrasound screening of an entire breast or breasts if a mammogram demonstrates a category C or D Breast Tissue Classification or if a woman is believed to be at an increased risk for cancer.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2019 through 2022 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

There is no cost to the District to requiring health care facilities to notify patients of mammogram results tending to show high breast density. Additionally, requiring insurers to cover baseline mammograms, screening mammograms, and MRI or ultrasounds has no cost to the District. The District's Medicaid and Alliance programs already cover these medical procedures.

² By amending The Cancer Prevention Act of 1990, effective March 7, 1990 (D.C. Law 8-225; D.C. Official Code § 31-2901 et seq.),