



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
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Legislative Impact Statement

To: Chairperson Stephen M. Casey
House Health, & Human Services Committee

From: Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary

Re: 21 House 6377 AN ACT RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY -- BREAST CANCER
PATIENT NOTIFICATION

Monday, June 14, 2021

The Governor's Commission on Disabilities' Legislation Committee has developed a Legislative Impact Statement on the bill listed below. The Commission would be pleased to present testimony to the committee. Please contact me (462-0102) if testimony is desired or for additional information.

Introduced By Representative Fenton-Fung

This act would allow for a summary of a patient's mammography report be provided to the patient by mail, electronically, or otherwise; provided, that an abnormal result would be provided only upon approval by the referring provider.

This act would take effect upon passage.

Legislation Committee finds this bill Beneficial

Mammograms are probably the most important tool doctors have not only to screen for breast cancer, but also to diagnose, evaluate, and follow people who've had breast cancer. Safe and reasonably accurate, a mammogram is an X-ray photograph of the breast. The technique has been in use for more than 50 years.

But most of the time, a radiologist can't say for sure whether "it's cancer" or "it's not cancer" based on a mammogram alone, because both cancerous and non-cancerous growths can look the same. That's why, for many women, a mammogram is the first in a series of tests that will help reveal a bigger picture.

Diagnostic mammograms are different from screening mammograms. Diagnostic mammograms focus on getting more information about a specific area (or areas) of concern -- usually because of a suspicious screening mammogram or a suspicious lump. Diagnostic mammograms take more pictures than screening mammograms do. A mammography technician and a radiologist work together to get the images your doctor needs to address that concern.

Source: <https://www.breastcancer.org/symptoms/testing/types/mammograms/interpret>

cc: Representative Fenton-Fung
Rico Vota, Governor's Office on Legislative Affairs