

SCS SB 639 -- MAMMOGRAPHY REPORTS

SPONSOR: Brown (Allen)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on General Laws by a vote of 13 to 0.

This bill requires that, upon the completion of a mammogram, a mammography facility certified by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or by a certification agency approved by the FDA must provide to the patient the following notice:

"If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide abnormalities, and you have other risk factors for breast cancer that have been identified, you might benefit from supplemental screening tests that may be suggested by your ordering physician. Dense breast tissue, in and of itself, is a relatively common condition. Therefore, this information is not provided to cause undue concern, but rather to raise your awareness and to promote discussion with your physician regarding the presence of other risk factors, in addition to dense breast tissue. A report of your mammography results will be sent to you and your physician. You should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report."

These provisions do not create a duty of care beyond the duty to provide notice.

The information required by this act or evidence that a person violated this act is not admissible in a civil, judicial, or administrative proceeding.

A mammography facility is not required to comply with these requirements until January 2, 2015.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will increase success in identifying abnormalities that may be hidden by masses.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Brown and Center for Diagnostic Imaging.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.