

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH30238-MG-75 (03/06)

Short Title: Breast Density Notification & Awareness. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Faircloth.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT REQUIRING HEALTH CARE FACILITIES THAT PERFORM
3 MAMMOGRAPHY EXAMINATIONS TO COMMUNICATE MAMMOGRAPHIC
4 BREAST DENSITY INFORMATION TO PATIENTS.

5 Whereas, there are four levels of breast density and the only way to identify breast
6 density is through a mammography examination; and

7 Whereas, women classified in the highest two levels have heterogeneously or
8 extremely dense breast tissue and could have abnormalities that are not easily visible on a
9 mammogram; and

10 Whereas, dense breast tissue may also increase the risk of developing cancer; and

11 Whereas, knowing her individual breast density level will aid in helping a woman
12 better understand that supplemental screening may be beneficial if she is classified in the two
13 highest levels of breast density; Now, therefore,

14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

15 SECTION 1. Article 7 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended by
16 adding a new section to read:

17 "**§ 130A-215.5. Communication of mammographic breast density information to patients.**

18 All health care facilities that perform mammography examinations shall do both of the
19 following:

20 (1) Include in the lay letter required by federal law to be provided to a patient
21 information that identifies the patient's individual breast density level, based
22 on the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System established by the
23 American College of Radiology. If the facility determines that a patient has
24 heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts, the lay letter shall include the
25 following notice: "Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast
26 tissue. Dense breast tissue is a relatively common condition. Although
27 common, both cancerous and noncancerous abnormalities may be more
28 difficult to distinguish against a background of dense breast tissue. Dense
29 breast tissue may be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer and
30 you may benefit from supplemental screening tests as suggested by your
31 physician. We are also providing this information to raise your awareness of
32 the importance of self breast examination and of speaking to your physician
33 about all risk factors."

34 (2) Provide all patients who receive diagnostic or screening mammograms with
35 informative material about breast density such as the American College of
36 Radiology's most current brochure on this subject."



1 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 130A-211 reads as rewritten:

2 "**§ 130A-211. Immunity of persons who report cancer.**

3 A person who makes a report pursuant to G.S. 130A-209 ~~or 130A-210~~ to the central cancer
4 registry shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability that might otherwise be incurred or
5 imposed."

6 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2013.