

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 467  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H467-PCS10262-TK-9

Short Title: Breast Density Notification & Awareness.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 1, 2013

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 AND TO MAKE A  
5 CORRECTION TO A STATUTE INVOLVING THE CANCER REGISTRY.

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

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

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

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

15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

18 "**§ 130A-215.5. Communication of mammographic breast density information to patients.**

19 All health care facilities that perform mammography procedures shall do both of the  
20 following:

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



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1           (2)    Provide all patients who receive diagnostic or screening mammograms with  
2                    informative material about breast density. This informative material may  
3                    include the American College of Radiology's most current brochure on the  
4                    subject of breast density."

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

6    **"§ 130A-211. Immunity of persons who report cancer.**

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

10           **SECTION 3.** The Medical Care Commission shall adopt rules requiring adherence  
11   to G.S. 130A-215.5 as a condition of receiving state certification for all facilities performing  
12   mammography procedures.

13           **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2013.