

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 467

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

Sponsors: Representatives Faircloth, Adams, Harrison, and Fulghum (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Health and Human Services.

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.

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."



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

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

5    **"§ 130A-211. Immunity of persons who report cancer.**

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

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