



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 538

February Session, 2000

House Bill No. 5533

House of Representatives, April 11, 2000

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. DYSON of the 94th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement For Breast Cancer Treatment.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 (NEW) The Commissioner of Social Services shall seek any federal
2 waivers or amend the state Medicaid plan as necessary in order to
3 secure federal reimbursement for the costs to such plan of providing
4 medical services to women diagnosed with breast cancer under the
5 breast and cervical cancer early detection and treatment referral
6 program established under section 19a-266 of the general statutes.

HS Committee Vote: Yea 18 Nay 0 JF C/R APP

APP Committee Vote: Yea 47 Nay 0 JF

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Potential Significant Cost

Affected Agencies: Department of Social Services

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

This bill requires DSS to seek any necessary federal waivers or amend the state Medicaid plan in order to receive federal reimbursement for providing medical services to women diagnosed with breast cancer under the breast and cervical cancer early detection and treatment referral program. This change to the state Medicaid plan would categorically extend Medicaid coverage to these women. In 1998, the last full year for which data is available, a total of 40 women in the early detection program were diagnosed with breast cancer. The program has found that 28% of those diagnosed were already Medicaid eligible due to income. Therefore, this act has the potential of adding 25 to 35 women per year to the Medicaid program. It is possible that a higher number would be added, as the benefits of this program become more widely known. Approximately 2,400 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in Connecticut annually. Given the high cost of cancer treatment, this would result in significant increased costs to the Medicaid program. It should be noted that there is no federal match available for this extension of Medicaid at this time.

Neither the House nor the Senate version of the Appropriations Act includes funds for this benefit extension.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5533

AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR BREAST CANCER TREATMENT.**SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the Department of Social Services to seek federal waivers or amend the state's Medicaid plan, as necessary, to cover the breast cancer treatment costs of low-income uninsured or underinsured women whose condition is diagnosed under the Department of Public Health's (DPH's) Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000

BACKGROUND***Breast and Cervical Cancer Program***

BCCEDP provides breast and cervical cancer education, diagnostic screenings, and counseling and treatment referrals. Low income women between ages 45 and 64, and those between ages 35 and 44 who have a close female relative who has had breast cancer, or other equally serious risk factors, may get free yearly mammograms. They must have (1) incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level (gross annual income of \$16,700 for a single person) and (2) no insurance coverage for mammograms. DPH contracts with health care providers for these services.

Pending Federal Legislation

Two bills currently before Congress would amend Title XIX (Medicaid) to allow states to provide Medicaid coverage for breast and cervical cancer-related treatment for women diagnosed through the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (HR 1070 and S 110).

(BCCEDP receives funding under this program.)

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 18 Nay 0

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 47 Nay 0