

## Insurance and Real Estate Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7124

AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR

**Title:** MAMMOGRAMS AND BREAST ULTRASOUNDS.

**Vote Date:** 3/19/2019

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute

**PH Date:** 2/21/2019

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

### REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill adds additional specific circumstances that, when coupled with the treating physician's recommendation, would require coverage for mammograms and breast ultrasounds by health plans.

### SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

The substitute language removed provisions to lower the age at which baseline, annual screenings, and possible further testing are covered by existing law, leaving current parameters in place.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Steven Hernandez, executive director of the Connecticut Commission on Women, Children, & Seniors](#) supported the bill's aspects that expanded coverage for the consumers, encouraging better outcomes.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Senator Kevin Witkos, 8<sup>th</sup> District](#), supported the bill's provisions that helped to ensure that women had access to proper and timely screening and treatment.

[Representative Themis Klarides, 114<sup>th</sup> Assembly District](#), supported the bill for recognizing the importance of genetic factors in breast cancer.

[Representative Maria Horn, 64<sup>th</sup> Assembly District](#), supported the bills focus on the use of ultrasounds for preventative use.

[Representative Michelle Cook, 65<sup>th</sup> Assembly District](#), favored the expanding of the pool of women who qualified for required coverage.

[Representative Stephanie Cummings, 74<sup>th</sup> Assembly District](#), supported the bill for expanding access to early screening.

[Sandy Cassanelli](#) urged the Committee to support the bill, relating her own experiences and how they would have been impacted by this kind of legislation.

[The Connecticut State Medical Society](#) supported bill as part of their commitment to early detection and physician driven treatment that reflects the latest and best practices.

[Jan Kritzman](#) encouraged the Committee to adopt even broader provisions and through her own experiences, praised the increased awareness of the difficulties associated with dense breast tissue diagnosis.

[Susan Yolen of Planned Parenthood New England](#), supported the bill's recognition of genetic factors that impact risk factors and the importance of coverage for routine and preventative screenings.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

[The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities](#) opposed the bill as an unfunded mandate on municipalities, adding expense to employee and retiree healthcare plans.

[Michelle Rakebrand from the Connecticut Business and Industry Association](#) opposed the bill in the absence of a cost analysis of the impact of these additions to the cost of healthcare offered by employers to their employees.

[The Connecticut Association of Health Care Plans](#) opposed the bill, pointing out that current Connecticut healthcare mandated requirements go well beyond what is required under the Affordable Care Act. They quoted the CT Insurance Department from 2018 outlining their objections to similar legislation.

**Reported by: Elizabeth Gillette**

**Date: March 27, 2019**