

HOUSE BILL 365

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1998 Regular Session
8r1872
CF 8r1777

By: **Delegates Nathan-Pulliam, Pitkin, Taylor, Benson, Bobo, E. Burns, Cryor, D. Davis, Eckardt, Frush, Goldwater, Hammen, Harrison, Hecht, Howard, Hubbard, B. Hughes, D. Hughes, Jones, Kirk, Klausmeier, Kopp, Love, Mandel, Marriott, Menes, Mohorovic, Morhaim, Pendergrass, Preis, Snodgrass, Stull, Stup, Walkup, and Watson**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 1998
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Mammography Screening Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to
4 establish a Mammography Screening Program; specifying that the Program is to
5 be administered by the local health departments in a certain manner; specifying
6 eligibility for the Program; requiring the Department to adopt regulations;
7 defining certain terms; and generally relating to the Mammography Screening
8 Program.

9 BY adding to
10 Article - Health - General
11 Section 20-116
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

14 **Preamble**

15 WHEREAS, Approximately 3,400 Maryland women are stricken with breast
16 cancer each year and approximately 800 of them die from the disease; and

17 WHEREAS, Early detection through mammography screening is by far the most
18 important tool medical science has in fighting breast cancer; and

19 WHEREAS, A mammography screening program conducted by the Health
20 Services Cost Review Commission for low-income, uninsured women age 40 years
21 and over, which detected an estimated 500 cases of breast cancer in nearly 4 years,
22 was allowed to expire on June 30, 1997 with no comprehensive replacement program
23 in place for thousands of women who need mammograms, but cannot afford them; and

24 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has conducted, for several years, a vigorous
25 public campaign urging women to get their yearly mammograms; and

1 WHEREAS, The Maryland General Assembly believes women age 40 years and
2 over should not be denied the opportunity to get a mammogram because of their lack
3 of financial resources; now, therefore,

4 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
5 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

6 **Article - Health - General**

7 20-116.

8 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
9 INDICATED.

10 (2) "ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO
11 RECEIVE BENEFITS UNDER THE PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (D)
12 OF THIS SECTION.

13 (3) "MAMMOGRAM" MEANS AN X-RAY EXAMINATION OF THE BREAST
14 USING DEDICATED EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING X-RAY TUBE, FILTER, COMPRESSION
15 DEVICE, SCREENS, FILMS, AND CASSETTES, SPECIFICALLY FOR MAMMOGRAPHY
16 THAT DELIVERS AN AVERAGE RADIATION EXPOSURE OF LESS THAN ONE RAD
17 MID-BREAST WITH TWO VIEWS FOR EACH BREAST.

18 (4) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING PROGRAM.

19 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING
20 PROGRAM.

21 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL
22 SCREENING MAMMOGRAM TO LOW-INCOME, UNINSURED WOMEN AGED 40 YEARS OR
23 OVER.

24 (C) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH
25 DEPARTMENTS THROUGH A GRANT PROGRAM UNDER WHICH A LOCAL HEALTH
26 DEPARTMENT MAKES ARRANGEMENTS WITH HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO PROVIDE
27 ANNUAL SCREENING MAMMOGRAMS TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.

28 (D) AN INDIVIDUAL IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

29 (1) HAS A FAMILY INCOME AT OR BELOW 200% OF THE FEDERAL
30 POVERTY LEVEL; AND

31 (2) DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THAT
32 COVERS SCREENING MAMMOGRAMS FOR WOMEN AGED 40 YEARS OR OLDER.

33 (E) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO
34 IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 1998.