

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 965 (Delegate Queen, *et al.*)
 Health and Government Operations

Maryland Department of Health - Breast Cancer Program - Eligibility and Public Awareness Campaign

This bill expands the Breast Cancer Program to include providing at least biennial screening mammograms and clinical breast examinations to women younger than age 45 who are considered high risk for breast cancer diagnosis. An individual is eligible for the screenings and examinations without regard to family income or health insurance coverage status if the individual belongs to a category considered to be at high risk for breast cancer, as determined by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH). When determining categories of high risk, MDH must consider relevant guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the prevalence of breast cancer among different races. MDH must develop a public awareness campaign to encourage eligible individuals to participate in the program.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: MDH general expenditures increase by \$8.0 million in FY 2025 to expand the Breast Cancer Program and develop a public awareness campaign, as discussed below. Future year expenditures of \$10.2 million reflect annualization and elimination of one-time costs. Revenues are not affected.

(\$ in millions)	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	8.0	10.2	10.2	10.2	10.2
Net Effect	(\$8.0)	(\$10.2)	(\$10.2)	(\$10.2)	(\$10.2)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Revenues and expenditures for the 11 local health departments (LHDs) that participate in the program increase from additional grants, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: MDH's Breast Cancer Program provides (1) at least biennial screening mammograms and clinical breast examinations to low-income, uninsured and low-income, underinsured women ages 40 to 49; (2) annual screening mammograms and clinical breast examinations to low-income, underinsured and low-income, uninsured women ages 50 and older; and (3) diagnosis and treatment for people identified by the program as being in need.

An individual is eligible for the program if they have a family income up to 250% of the federal poverty level and does not have access to health insurance coverage that covers screening mammograms and clinical breast examinations for women ages 40 and older.

The program's breast cancer screening services are mainly provided through the Maryland Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (BCCP). BCCP provides low-income, uninsured and underinsured women access to timely breast and cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services and is funded by CDC through its National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and the Maryland Cigarette Restitution Fund. BCCP provides grants to 11 LHDs and 4 health systems in Maryland to coordinate the provision of breast and cervical cancer outreach, education, no-cost screening, and follow-up services.

State Expenditures:

Expansion of Program Eligibility

While current BCCP efforts are funded with federal and special funds as noted above, MDH advises that such funds are not sufficient to expand the program. Thus, MDH general fund expenditures increase by \$7.7 million in fiscal 2025, which accounts for the bill's October 1, 2024 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost to provide funding to the 15 BCCP grantees for coverage of additional clinical breast examinations and screening mammograms, and the staffing costs associated with case management, administration, and outreach at each local BCCP. The information and assumptions used in calculating the estimate are stated below:

- 15% of women are classified as high risk for breast cancer.
- There are 1,014,766 women in Maryland ages 20 to 44 years, approximately 152,215 of whom may be at high risk for breast cancer.
- An estimated 10% of these women (15,222) enroll in the program.
- The annual cost per enrollee (including a clinical breast examination with high-risk assessment and a screening mammogram) is \$458.

- Service costs for 15,222 women total \$6,971,676 on an annualized basis.
- Additional staffing costs associated with case management, administration, and outreach at each BCCP grantee site (0.75 full-time equivalent (FTE) registered nurse, 0.5 FTE community health worker, and 0.25 FTE administrative assistant) average \$218,529 per program.
- For the 15 BCCP grantees, staffing costs total \$3,277,935 on an annualized basis.
- In fiscal 2025, expenditures increase by \$7,687,208 to reflect the bill's October 1, 2024 effective date (the provision of grants covering nine months of services and staffing).

Public Awareness Campaign

The bill also requires MDH to develop a public awareness campaign to encourage eligible individuals to participate in the program. Thus, MDH general fund expenditures increase by an additional \$300,000 in fiscal 2025 only to develop and implement a multi-faceted media campaign, to include branding, creative content, media placement, web content and development, outreach, and a helpline. MDH advises that this process will incorporate focus groups and listening sessions to identify effective outreach strategies that will work with Black women, who are disproportionately burdened by breast cancer.

Local Fiscal Effect: Revenues and expenditures for the 11 LHDs that participate in the program increase beginning in fiscal 2025 from receipt of additional grants to provide additional services and for associated staffing costs.

Additional Information: According to CDC, the following factors make women at higher risk for breast cancer: (1) age (most breast cancers are diagnosed after age 50); (2) inherited changes to certain genes (such as BRCA1 and BRCA 2); (3) starting menstruation before age 12 and menopause after age 55; (4) having dense breasts; (5) a personal history of breast cancer or certain noncancerous breast diseases; (6) a family history of breast or ovarian cancer; (7) previous treatment to the chest or breast using radiation therapy before age 30; (8) exposure to the drug diethylstilbestrol; (9) not being physically active; (10) being overweight or obese after menopause; (11) taking certain hormones; (12) having the first pregnancy after age 30, not breastfeeding, and never having a full-term pregnancy; and (13) drinking alcohol.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the past three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Maryland Association of County Health Officers; Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2024
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