H.136

Introduced by Representatives Till of Jericho, Botzow of Pownal, Heath of Westford, Keenan of St. Albans City, Macaig of Williston, Stevens of Waterbury, Stuart of Brattleboro, Townsend of South Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Health; health insurance; mammograms; colorectal cancer screenings

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to prohibit health insurers from imposing cost-sharing requirements for colorectal cancer screenings and mammograms and to clarify that health insurance plans must cover both the preventive screening and all associated services at no additional charge to the insured.

An act relating to cost-sharing for preventive services

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 8 V.S.A. § 4100a is amended to read:

§ 4100a. MAMMOGRAMS; COVERAGE REQUIRED

(a) Insurers shall provide coverage for screening by ~~low-dose~~ mammography, regardless of technique, for the presence of occult breast cancer, as provided by this subchapter. Benefits provided shall cover the full

cost of the mammography service~~, subject to a co-payment no greater than the co-payment applicable to care or services provided by a primary care physician under the insured's policy, provided that no co-payment shall exceed $25.00. Mammography services~~ and shall not be subject to any co-payment, deductible, ~~or~~ coinsurance ~~requirements~~, or other cost-sharing requirement or additional charge.

(b) For females 40 years or older, coverage shall be provided for an annual screening. For females less than 40 years of age, coverage for screening shall be provided upon recommendation of a health care provider.

(c) After January 1, 1994, this section shall apply only to screening procedures conducted by test facilities accredited by the American College of Radiologists.

(d) For purposes of this subchapter:

(1) "Insurer" means any insurance company which provides health insurance as defined in subdivision 3301(a)(2) of this title, nonprofit hospital and medical service corporations, and health maintenance organizations. The term does not apply to coverage for specified disease or other limited benefit coverage.

(2) ~~"Low-dose mammography"~~ "Mammography" means the x-ray examination of the breast using equipment dedicated specifically for mammography, including the x-ray tube, filter, compression device, screens,

films and cassettes. ~~The average radiation dose to the breast shall be the lowest dose generally recognized by competent medical authority to be practicable for yielding acceptable radiographic images.~~

(3) "Screening" includes the ~~low-dose~~ mammography test procedure and a qualified physician's interpretation of the results of the procedure, including additional views and interpretation as needed.

Sec. 2. 8 V.S.A. § 4100g is amended to read:

§ 4100g. COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING, COVERAGE REQUIRED

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Colonoscopy" means a procedure that enables a physician to examine visually the inside of a patient's entire colon and includes the removal of polyps, biopsy, or both.

(2) "Insurer" means insurance companies that provide health insurance as defined in subdivision 3301(a)(2) of this title, nonprofit hospital and medical services corporations, and health maintenance organizations. The term does not apply to coverage for specified disease or other limited benefit coverage.

(b) Insurers shall provide coverage for colorectal cancer screening, including:

(1) Providing an insured 50 years of age or older with the option of:

(A) Annual fecal occult blood testing plus one flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years; or

(B) One colonoscopy every 10 years.

(2) For an insured who is at high risk for colorectal cancer, colorectal cancer screening examinations and laboratory tests as recommended by the treating physician.

(c) For the purposes of subdivision (b)(2) of this section, an individual is at high risk for colorectal cancer if the individual has:

(1) A family medical history of colorectal cancer or a genetic syndrome predisposing the individual to colorectal cancer;

(2) A prior occurrence of colorectal cancer or precursor polyps;

(3) A prior occurrence of a chronic digestive disease condition such as inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, or ulcerative colitis; or

(4) Other predisposing factors as determined by the individual's treating physician.

(d) ~~Benefits provided shall cover the colorectal cancer screening subject to a co-payment no greater than the co-payment applicable to care or services provided by a primary care physician under the insured's policy, provided that no co-payment shall exceed $100.00 for services performed under contract with the insurer.~~ Colorectal cancer screening services performed under contract with the insurer ~~also~~ shall not be subject to any co-payment,

deductible, ~~or~~ coinsurance ~~requirements~~, or other cost-sharing requirement. In addition, an insured shall not be subject to any additional charge for any service associated with a procedure or test for colorectal cancer screening, which may include one or more of the following:

(1) removal of tissue or other matter;

(2) laboratory services;

(3) physician services;

(4) facility use;

(5) anesthesia; and

(6) all other services reasonably related to the colorectal cancer screening procedure or test.

(e) ~~If determined to be permitted by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, for a patient covered under the Medicare program, the patient's out-of-pocket expenditure for a colorectal cancer screening shall not exceed $100.00, with the hospital or other health care facility where the screening is performed absorbing the difference between the Medicare payment and the Medicare negotiated rate for the screening.~~ [Deleted.]

Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.