

1 S.157

2 Introduced by Senator Benning

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Health; mammography; breast density

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require health
7 care facilities that perform mammograms to inform patients of their breast
8 tissue classification and to notify patients with dense breasts that they may
9 benefit from additional screening.

10 An act relating to breast density notification and education

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

12 Sec. 1. 18 V.S.A. § 158 is added to read:

13 § 158. DENSE BREAST NOTIFICATION AND EDUCATION

14 (a) All health care facilities that perform mammography examinations shall
15 include in the summary of the mammography report to be provided to a patient
16 information that identifies the patient's individual breast tissue classification
17 based on the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System established by the
18 American College of Radiology. If a facility determines that a patient has
19 heterogeneously dense or extremely dense breasts, the summary of the
20 mammography report shall also include the following notice:

1 “Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense
2 breast tissue is fairly common and is found in about 40 percent of women. The
3 presence of dense tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancers in the
4 breast by mammography because it can hide small abnormalities and may be
5 associated with an increased risk. Hence, you may benefit from supplementary
6 screening tests, which may include a breast ultrasound screening or a breast
7 MRI examination, or both, depending on your individual risk factors.

8 We are providing this information to raise your awareness of this
9 important factor and to encourage you to discuss your dense breast tissue, as
10 well as other breast cancer risk factors, with your health care provider.
11 Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you.

12 A report of your results was sent to your physician. You should contact
13 your physician if you have any questions or concerns about this report.”

14 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a duty of care or
15 other legal obligation beyond the duty to provide notice as set forth in this
16 section.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016.