

HOUSE BILL REPORT

ESB 5714

As Reported by House Committee On:
Health Care

Title: An act relating to an early detection breast and cervical cancer screening program.

Brief Description: Establishing an early detection breast and cervical cancer screening program.

Sponsors: Senators Keiser, Deccio, Kastama, Parlette, Thibaudeau, McAuliffe, Brown, Rasmussen, Rockefeller and Kohl-Welles.

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Health Care: 3/29/05, 3/31/05 [DPA].

Brief Summary of Engrossed Bill
(As Amended by House Committee)

- Establishes an early detection breast and cervical cancer screening program for women age 40 to 64 with income at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Establishes a medical advisory committee on early prevention and detection for breast and cervical cancer.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH CARE

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 13 members: Representatives Cody, Chair; Campbell, Vice Chair; Morrell, Vice Chair; Bailey, Ranking Minority Member; Curtis, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Alexander, Appleton, Clibborn, Green, Hinkle, Lantz, Moeller and Schual-Berke.

Staff: Molly Belozer (786-7104).

Background:

In 1990, Congress passed the Breast and Cervical Cancer Mortality Prevention Act to provide grants to states for the purpose of screening women for breast and cervical cancer. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) developed the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program in 1991 to help low income, uninsured, and underserved women gain access to screening programs for early detection of breast and cervical cancer. Implemented in all 50 states, the program provides clinical breast

examinations, mammograms, pap tests, surgical consultation, and diagnostic testing for women with abnormal screening results.

The Department of Health (Department), through a CDC grant, administers a breast and cervical cancer early detection program for low-income women. Federal funding from FY00 to FY04 was \$15 million, and the state is required to contribute \$1 for every \$3 of federal funding. The Legislature has appropriated an annual \$1 million for breast and cervical cancer screening, coordination, and outreach services.

Breast cancer is the second most commonly diagnosed cancer among American women; according to a report on cancer statistics from the CDC and the National Cancer Institute, Washington has the highest incidence of breast cancer in the nation. According to the Department, early detection screening could prevent approximately 15 to 30 percent of breast cancer deaths among women over the age of 40.

Cervical cancer has a low incidence in the United States. According to the CDC, human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is a strong risk factor for cervical cancer, but regular Pap tests can detect HPV infection and pre-cancers. The Department believes that early detection screening can prevent most cervical cancer deaths.

Summary of Amended Bill:

The Department must administer a state-supported early detection breast and cervical cancer screening program to assist eligible women with preventive health services. The screening program may enroll eligible women and, as funds are available, to expand the program to additional eligible women. Eligible women are defined as women aged 40-64, with income at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level.

The funding from the state must not be used to replace federally-funded breast and cervical cancer early detection programs, but will be used to operate Department-approved programs or increase access to existing state-approved programs.

The Department must establish a Medical Advisory Committee (Committee) to provide expert medical advice and guidance in addressing concerns and program policy implementation of the early detection breast and cervical cancer screening program. The Committee must include interested medical professionals and consumer liaisons with expertise in areas relating to breast and cervical health.

Amended Bill Compared to Original Bill:

The amended bill specifies that eligible women may be enrolled, and additional women may be enrolled, to the extent of available funding. The amended bill contains a new section that details the continued enrollment in the program relating to funding. The amended bill also removes language about the program continuing only as long as the current federal funding level continues.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date of Amended Bill: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: The program is already in place due to federal funding, and has helped many women. It would be helpful for the program to have statutory framework, and would also give the program an elevated level of respect.

Testimony Against: None.

Persons Testifying: Patty Hayes, Department of Health; Susie Tracy, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation; Julie Pietz; and Stacie Singleton.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.