

By Ms. Pines, petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 471) of Lois G. Pines and Barbara Hildt for legislation to establish a breast cancer detection program. Health Care.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A BREAST CANCER DETECTION PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 the following new section: —

3 Section 4M. The commissioner shall establish, promote, and
4 maintain a program to be known as the Breast Cancer Detection
5 Program to provide breast cancer detection and follow-up services
6 to any Massachusetts resident who, through economic hardship,
7 is unable to purchase health insurance in any form, or who is
8 ineligible for screening and other detection benefits provided
9 through Medicaid. Program enrollees and their dependents shall
10 be deemed eligible for the program and shall not be charged for
11 detection service or follow-up services only if their income is below
12 twice the non-farm poverty guidelines of the United States office
13 of management and budget. Said detection program shall include
14 benefits for one baseline mammographic examination for women
15 between the ages of thirty-five and forty and for a mammogram
16 on an annual basis for women forty years of age and older.

17 The program shall also include, but is not limited to, all of the
18 following:

19 (1) Professional education programs for health professionals to
20 develop state-of-the-art skills in breast cancer screening,
21 diagnosis, referral, treatment, and rehabilitation.

22 (2) Public education programs to assist the public in
23 understanding all of the following:

- 24 (a) The benefits of regular breast cancer screening.
- 25 (b) How to make the best use of the medical care system for
26 cancer screening, diagnosis, referral, treatment, and
27 rehabilitation.
- 28 (c) The available options for treatment of cancer.
- 29 (3) An applied research and community demonstration grant
30 program that provides grants to local communities to demonstrate
31 and evaluate one or more of the following:
- 32 (a) Methods to reduce cancer morbidity and mortality.
- 33 (b) Economical and effective methods of providing access to
34 breast cancer screening, diagnosis, referral, treatment and
35 rehabilitation services for populations with higher than expected
36 rates of breast cancer morbidity or mortality.
- 37 (4) An applied research grant program that provides funds to
38 Massachusetts cancer research institutions to determine the cause
39 or causes of breast cancer.