

Illinois Becomes 35th State with a Breast Density Inform Law

First in nation to direct patients to their breast imaging provider for information

Deer Park, N.Y., August 14, 2018 -- Governor Bruce Rauner has signed breast density inform bill, [HB4392](#), and Illinois becomes the 35th state with active legislation on the issue.

Gov. Rauner's signature on HB4392 means about 88% of U.S. women now live in states that require some level of notification about breast density be given to a woman after a mammogram. The law goes into effect January 1, 2019.

Illinois' law is the first to direct women to their *breast imaging* health care provider for information about the notification. Previous laws have directed women to their referring doctor for questions. According to Patti Beyer, patient advocate and founder of the Illinois Breast Density Initiative, "This means that women in Illinois are being encouraged to have a conversation with the expert, the radiologist, the doctor who determined their breast density and dialog about the options for supplemental screening."

Approximately 40% of women aged 40 and over have dense breasts and may benefit from supplemental screening tests, in addition to mammography, to detect cancers. Women with extremely dense breasts are 4-6 times more likely to develop breast cancer than women with the least dense breasts.

The Illinois Breast Density Initiative utilized the [DenseBreast-info.org](#) website as the educational backbone to support the state's legislative effort.

While 35 states now have enacted legislation, they vary in depth and breadth of notification and not all density "inform" laws actually require that women be provided information about their own breast density. Some only require that general information be provided about breast density. There is a growing call for a single national reporting standard to address this disparity. On the federal regulatory level, the Food and Drug Administration anticipates publishing proposed amendments to the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) regulations for notice or comment. On the federal legislative front, the Breast Density and Mammography Reporting Act of 2017 has been introduced in both the Senate (S 2006) and House (HR 4122).

For further explanation about federal efforts and for state-by-state legislative analysis, visit the "[Legislative Information](#)" tab at educational website [DenseBreast-info.org](#).

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