

Georgia Becomes 38th State with a Breast Density Inform Law

“Margie’s law” requires health care facilities to notify patient if dense tissue is detected

Deer Park, N.Y., May 6, 2019 -- DenseBreast-info.org is pleased to announce that breast density inform bill HB62 has been signed by Governor Brian Kemp. The law, which becomes effective July 1, 2019, makes Georgia the 38th state to require health care facilities conducting mammograms to provide some form of notification about breast density to patients and referring health care providers.

House Bill 62, also known as “Margie’s law,” was introduced through a grass roots advocacy effort led by Margie Singleton, of Savannah, Georgia. Singleton was diagnosed with a breast cancer that was missed by screening mammography because she has dense breast tissue.

“I applaud Margie Singleton and the many dedicated advocates and legislators who worked to turn this law into a reality,” said JoAnn Pushkin, Executive Director of DenseBreast-info.org. “With its passage, over 90% of American women now receive some form of communication about breast density after their mammograms. This information will result in more informed discussions with their health care providers about whether supplemental screening might be beneficial.”

At this time, there are no states with pending density inform legislation. The District of Columbia received congressional approval for its law in March 2019. Arkansas introduced a density inform bill in 2019, but later withdrew it after the federal law ensuring development of a national reporting standard was signed.

Impact of federal legislation on state notification laws

Proposed changes to the Mammography Quality Standards Act that would establish national minimal standards for breast density notification were issued by the Food and Drug Administration on March 28, 2019 in the form of an [amendment](#). DB-I is analyzing the proposed language and will be submitting comments to the FDA during the designated “open for public comment” period which concludes June 26, 2019. The final amendment will be published following review of the comments and it will become effective eighteen months following approval. Once the new standard is introduced, it is expected that individual state law review will be necessary.

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

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