

State Laws on Breast Cancer Screening & Breast Density

2018

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Overview: Breast Cancer Screening & Density

State Laws as of September 2018

Overview: Since **Connecticut** passed the first patient notification mandate in 2009, breast density bills have been considered in over half of the states and Congress. Notification mandate laws have passed in 35 states. These laws are problematic because they legislate medical practice:

- no reliable (objective and quantitative) method for assessing breast density
- no clinical guidelines recommend additional screening solely on the basis of high breast density
- breast density is not a major cancer risk factor.

Proponents of these laws include two patient advocacy groups: Are You Dense Advocacy and the Density Education National Survivor's Effort (D.E.N.S.E.). Are You Dense was founded by a Connecticut woman diagnosed with advance-stage breast cancer in 2004. For more information about this grassroots advocacy campaign, visit Areyoudenseadvocacy.org.

State Legislative Activity

- **As of 2018, 35 states passed mandates. Nine states passed laws in 2018. (See chart on page 4)**

These state laws:

- ***Legislate notification to patients about breast density including that the patient may benefit from supplemental screening***
- ***Encourage patients to discuss risks/benefits of adjunct screening with their primary health care provider***
- ***Legislate insurance coverage for supplemental screening (ultrasound, MRI)***
- ***Apply to facilities and/or the patient's primary care or referring physician***
- ***May change breast cancer screening practices***

ACOG Clinical Guidance: ACOG does not recommend routine use of alternative or adjunctive tests in women with dense breasts who are asymptomatic and have no additional risk factors. Screening mammography remains the most useful tool for breast cancer detection and has consistently demonstrated a reduction in breast cancer mortality. GYN Practice Committee Opinion 625 (2017) discusses prevalence; determination of density by radiologists which is a qualitative, visual assessment; impact of density on cancer risk; masking effect of dense breast tissue which reduces the sensitivity of a mammogram to detect malignancy; and efficacy of digital versus film mammography.

American College of Radiology (ACR) Position: ACR's state chapters have taken varying positions on these bills. ACR acknowledges there is limited science to provide direction for patients, their primary care providers and breast imagers. ACR's Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System (BI-RADS™) recommends that all mammography reports to referring providers include a description of breast density which physicians should use to discuss appropriate options given a patient's history and other circumstances. Radiologists categorize density using a 4-level density scale.

ACR Patient Brochure: ACR issued a new patient brochure about breast density in late fall 2012. However, this has not dissuaded state lawmakers from legislating information that must be given to patients. In fact, recent laws (eg, NC) cite the ACR brochure. Visit MammographySavesLives.org or RadiologyInfo.org.

FDA role: FDA mandates that information on breast parenchymal density be included in the mammography report but not the patient lay summary. In its October 2011 testimony to the FDA, ACR urged FDA to proceed cautiously and evaluate Connecticut's experience as well as the benefits, possible harms and unintended consequences of mandating the reporting of mammographic breast density in patient lay summaries. To view ACR's statement and talking points on breast density mandates, visit www.acr.org/advocacy.

State Laws: Breast Cancer Screening & Density (35 States: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin)

STATE LAWS	PATIENT NOTIFICATION MANDATES			LAW EXPIRES / UPDATED BASED ON EVIDENCE	NO CONFLICT w/ MQSA* <i>State notice requirement is in force only until the federal act is amended to address breast density screening/risk</i>	INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SCREENING	LEGAL LIABILITY <i>Notice does not create a standard of care for screenings or cause of action</i>	DATA COLLECTION ON COSTS AND OUTCOMES
	NOTICE OF BREAST DENSITY <i>Applies only to patients w/ dense breast tissue unless noted</i>	NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL SCREENING OPTIONS	MANDATE ON FACILITY (F) OR PHYSICIAN (P)					
ALABAMA (2013)	X	X	F, P				X	
ARIZONA (2014)	X <i>heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts</i>		F		X		X	
CALIFORNIA (2012, 2018*)	X		F	X <i>*Expires Jan 1, 2025</i>	X		X	
COLORADO (2017)	X		F, P				X	
CONNECTICUT (2009, 2012, 2016) <i>*Amended 2018</i>	X	X	F			X <i>ultrasound, MRI, Tomosynthesis *expands coverage</i>		
DELAWARE (2015)	X <i>all patients</i>		F				X	
FLORIDA (2018)	X		F	X <i>Expires June 30, 2023</i>	X		X	

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	NOTICE OF BREAST DENSITY <i>Applies only to patients w/ dense breast tissue unless noted</i>	NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL SCREENING OPTIONS	MANDATE ON FACILITY (F) OR PHYSICIAN (P)					
HAWAII (2013)	X	X	F	X Updates to Notice				
ILLINOIS (2018)	X		F		X		X	
INDIANA (2013)	X high breast density only	X	F			X		
IOWA (2017)	X all patients & heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts		F		X		X	
KENTUCKY (2017)	X		F	X Updates to definition of dense breast tissue/ Expires Jan 1, 2021				
LOUISIANA (2015)	X all patients	X	F				X	
MARYLAND (2013, 2017)	X all patients	X* Amended 2017	F	X Updates to Notice	X		X	
MASSACHUSETTS (2014)	X	X	F					
MICHIGAN (2014 & 2015)	X heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts	X	F	X Updates to definition of dense breast tissue				

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	NOTICE OF BREAST DENSITY <i>Applies only to patients w/ dense breast tissue unless noted</i>	NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL SCREENING OPTIONS	MANDATE ON FACILITY (F) OR PHYSICIAN (P)					
MISSISSIPPI* (2017)	X		F		X			
MISSOURI (2014)	X all patients	X	F				X	
NEBRASKA (2017)	X all patients & heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts		F	X Updates to the notice			X	
NEVADA (2013 & 2015)	X all patients		F		X		X	
NEW JERSEY (2013)	X heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts	X <i>Physician referrals subject to utilization review</i>	F			X ultrasound, MRI <i>subject to utilization review</i>	X	X
NEW YORK (2012)	X	X	F					
NORTH CAROLINA (2013)	X heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts		F					
NORTH DAKOTA (2015)	X heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts		F	LAW EXPIRED JULY 31, 2017				
OHIO (2014 & 2015)	X		F				X	
OKLAHOMA (2016)	X		F					

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	NOTICE OF BREAST DENSITY <i>Applies only to patients w/ dense breast tissue unless noted</i>	NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL SCREENING OPTIONS	MANDATE ON FACILITY (F) OR PHYSICIAN (P)					
OREGON (2013)	X	X breast ultrasound	F	X Updates to definition of dense breast tissue				
PENNSYLVANIA (2013)	X all patients		F					
RHODE ISLAND (2015)	X heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts	X breast ultrasound & MRI	F					
TENNESSEE (2013, 2018)	X		F		X		X	
TEXAS (2011)	X	X	F				X	
UTAH (2012, 2018*)	X *mandatory as of 2018	X	F *mandatory as of 2018					
VERMONT (2016, 2018*)	X		F			X *Ultrasound, Tomosynthesis		
VIRGINIA (2012 & 2013)	X 2013 amendment: limited to heterogeneously or extremely dense breasts	X 2013 amendment	F, P	X 2013 amendment: Updates to Notice				
WASHINGTON (2018)	X		F	X Expires Jan 1, 2025	X		X	

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	NOTICE OF BREAST DENSITY <i>Applies only to patients w/ dense breast tissue unless noted</i>	NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL SCREENING OPTIONS	MANDATE ON FACILITY (F) OR PHYSICIAN (P)					
WISCONSIN (2018)	X All Patients		F				X	

EXPLANATION

MQSA: The federal Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992 (reauthorized in 1998 and 2004) sets minimum national standards for operation of mammography equipment, film processing, image interpretation and results reporting. The intent is to decrease variability in screening practices.

Mississippi: The Mississippi law does not specify breast density; implementing rules which are being drafted may address breast density. The ‘Guidelines for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program’ published by the state Office of Women’s Health currently does not require notification to patients based on dense breasts.

Expiration: In five states, these laws will expire on a specified date. North Dakota’s law expired July 31, 2017.

Patient Notification Requirements: Breast Density

States: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin (35 total)

- ALABAMA** *“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue may make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness. Use this information to talk to your doctor about your own risks for breast cancer. At that time, ask your doctor if more screening tests might be useful, based on your risk. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”*
- ARIZONA** *“Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is common and is found in fifty percent of women. However, dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancers in the breast by mammography and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information is being provided to raise your awareness and to encourage you to discuss with your health care providers your dense breast tissue and other breast cancer risk factors. Together, you and your physician can decide if additional screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”*
- CALIFORNIA** *“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to evaluate the results of your mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your doctor. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”*
- COLORADO** *“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to evaluate the results of your mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your doctor. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”*
- CONNECTICUT** *“If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide small abnormalities, you might benefit from supplementary screening tests, which can include a breast ultrasound screening or a breast MRI examination, or both, depending on your individual risk factors. A report of your mammography results, which contains information about your breast density, has been sent to your physician’s office and you should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns about this report.”*
- DELAWARE** *“The State of Delaware requires the notification of breast density to patients who receive a mammogram. Your breast density has been interpreted by a radiologist as: almost entirely fatty; scattered fibroglandular densities; heterogeneously dense; extremely dense. Breast density is based on the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System established by the American College of Radiology. If your mammogram shows that your*

breast tissue is dense, you should know that dense breast tissue is a common finding and is not abnormal. Statistics show many women could have dense or highly dense breasts. Dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may be associated with an increased risk of cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your physician. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you, based on your mammogram results, individual risk factors or physical examination. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”

FLORIDA *“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is relatively common and is found in approximately 50 percent of women. The presence of dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to detect some abnormalities in the breast and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness. A report of your results was sent to your health care provider. Further recommendations may be added at the discretion of the interpreting radiologist. Please be aware that additional screening studies may not be covered by your insurance.”*

HAWAII *“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness. Use this information to talk to your physician as to whether, based on your risk, more screening tests might be useful. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”*

ILLINOIS *“Your mammogram indicates you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is normal and identified on mammograms in about 50% of women. Dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancer on a mammogram and may be associated with an increased risk for breast cancer. Despite these limitations, screening mammograms have been proven to save lives. Continue to have routine screening mammography whether or not additional exams are suggested for you. This information is provided to raise your awareness of the impact of breast density on cancer detection. For further information about dense breast tissue, as well as other breast cancer risk factors, contact your breast imaging health care provider.”*

INDIANA **Indiana’s law does not specify notification language.**

IOWA **The law specifies that the notice must include the following:** For all patients: the patient’s breast density category. **For patients categorized as having heterogeneously dense or extremely dense breasts:** evidence-based information on dense breast tissue, the increased risk associated with dense breast tissue, and the effects of dense breast tissue on screening mammography.

KENTUCKY *“Your x-ray mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common among women and is not abnormal. However, women with dense breast tissue may have a slightly increased risk for developing breast cancer. Dense breast tissue may also make it more difficult to detect an early breast cancer on your x-ray mammogram. At this time, there are no specific recommendations for additional screening or other measures related to having dense breast tissue. However, you may want to talk to your doctor about other ways that you might be able to reduce your risk of breast cancer. A report of your results was sent to your ordering physician. If you are self-referred, a report of your results was sent to you in addition to this summary.”*

LOUISIANA *"If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide abnormalities, and you have other risk factors for breast cancer that have been identified, you might benefit from supplemental screening tests that may be suggested by your ordering physician. Dense breast tissue, in and of itself, is a relatively common condition. Therefore, this information is not provided to cause undue concern, but rather to raise your awareness and to promote discussion with your physician regarding the presence of other risk factors, in addition to dense breast tissue. A summary of your mammography results will be sent to you, and a full mammography report will be sent to your physician and also to you. You should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns regarding your summary or report of results."*

MARYLAND ***Maryland altered its notice requirements in 2017 to require notice of additional screening options.*** *"This notice contains the results of your recent mammogram, including information about breast density. If your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense, you should know that dense breast tissue is a common finding and is not abnormal, with about half of women having dense or highly dense breasts. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your physician. Together, you can decide whether additional screening options are right for you based on your mammogram results, individual risk factors, or physical examination. A report of your results was sent to your physician."*

MASSACHUSETTS **The law specifies that the notice must include, at a minimum, the following:** *"that the patient's mammogram shows dense breast tissue; that the degree of density apparent and an explanation of that degree of density; that dense breast tissue is common and not abnormal but that dense breast tissue may increase the risk of breast cancer; that dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to find cancer on a mammogram and that additional testing may be needed for reliable breast cancer screening; that additional screening may be advisable and that the patient should discuss the results of the mammogram with the patient's referring physician or primary care physician; that the patient has the right to discuss the results of the patient's mammogram with the interpreting radiologist or the referring physician; that a report of the patient's mammogram has been sent to the referring physician and will become part of the patient's medical record; and where the patient can find additional information about dense breast tissue."*

MICHIGAN *"Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer through a mammogram. Also, dense breast tissue may increase your risk for breast cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness. Use this information to discuss with your health care provider whether other supplemental tests in addition to your mammogram may be appropriate for you, based on your individual risk. A report of your results was sent to your ordering physician. If you are self-referred, a report of your results was sent to you in addition to this summary."*

MINNESOTA **The following language is suggested, not mandated:** *"Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is relatively common and is found in more than 40 percent of women. However, dense breast tissue may make it more difficult to identify precancerous lesions or cancer through a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your own awareness and to help inform your conversations with your treating clinician who has received a report of your mammogram results. Together you can decide which screening options are right for you based on your mammogram results, individual risk factors, or physical examination."*

- MISSOURI** *“If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide abnormalities, and you have other risk factors for breast cancer that have been identified, you might benefit from supplemental screening tests that may be suggested by your ordering physician. Dense breast tissue, in and of itself, is a relatively common condition. Therefore, this information is not provided to cause undue concern, but rather to raise your awareness and to promote discussion with your physician regarding the presence of other risk factors, in addition to dense breast tissue. A report of your mammography results will be sent to you and your physician. You should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report.”*
- NEBRASKA** *“Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is a normal finding that is present in about forty percent of women. Dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancer on a mammogram and may be associated with a slightly increased risk for breast cancer. This information is provided to raise your awareness of the impact of breast density on cancer detection and to encourage you to discuss this issue, as well as other breast cancer risk factors, with your health care provider as you decide together which screening options may be right for you.”*
- NEVADA** **Two years after passing a mandate, Nevada amended its notice requirement.** *“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to evaluate the results of your mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the results of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your physician. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”*
- NEW JERSEY** *“Your mammogram may show that you have dense breast tissue as determined by the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System established by the American College of Radiology. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, in some cases, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with a risk factor for breast cancer. Discuss this and other risks for breast cancer that pertain to your personal medical history with your health care provider. A report of your results was sent to your health care provider. You may also find more information about breast density at the website of the American College of radiology, www.acr.org.”*
- NEW YORK** *“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness. Use this information to talk to your doctor about your own risks for breast cancer. At that time, ask your doctor if more screening tests might be useful, based on your risk. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”*
- NORTH CAROLINA** *“Your mammogram indicates that you may have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is relatively common and is found in more than 40 percent (40%) of women. The presence of dense tissue may make it more difficult to detect abnormalities in the breast and may be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. We are providing this information to raise your awareness of this important factor and to encourage you to talk with your physician about this and other breast cancer risk factors. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician.”*
- OHIO** *“Your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide abnormalities. Dense breast tissue, in and of itself, is a relatively common condition. Therefore, this information is not provided to*

cause undue concern; rather, it is to raise your awareness and promote discussion with your health care provider regarding the presence of dense breast tissue in addition to other risk factors."

OKLAHOMA *"Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is common and is found in more than fifty percent (50%) of women and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue may make it more difficult to detect breast cancer and may be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information is being provided to raise your awareness and to encourage you and your health care provider to discuss this and other breast cancer risk factors. Together, you and your health care provider can decide if additional screening options may be right for you. A report of your results was sent to your health care provider."*

OREGON **The law specifies that the notice include the following:** *"information about breast density based on the Breast Imaging Reporting and Data System established by the American College of Radiology; an explanation that dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and that dense breast tissue may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer; that the patient may benefit from supplementary screening or diagnostic testing including a breast ultrasound; and that the patient should contact the patient's health care provider to find out whether the health care provider recommends additional testing."*

PENNSYLVANIA *"This notice contains the results of your recent mammogram, including information about breast density. If your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense, you should know that dense breast tissue is a common finding and is not abnormal. Statistics show that many women could have dense or highly dense breasts. Dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may be associated with an increased risk of cancer. This information about the result of your mammogram is given to you to raise your awareness and to inform your conversations with your physician. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you based on your mammogram results, individual risk factors or physical examination. A report of your results was sent to your physician."*

RHODE ISLAND *"Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is relatively common and is found in about forty percent (40%) of women. The presence of dense tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancers in the breast by mammography because it can hide small abnormalities and may be associated with an increased risk. Hence, you may benefit from supplementary screening tests, which may include a breast ultrasound screening, or a breast MRI examination, or both, depending on your individual risk factors. We are providing this information to raise your awareness of this important factor and to encourage you to discuss your dense breast tissue, as well as other breast cancer risk factors, with your health care provider. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. A report of your results was sent to your physician. You should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns about this report."*

TENNESSEE *"Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is common. However, dense breast tissue can hide breast cancer, so that it may not be seen on routine mammography. It may also be associated with an increased risk of developing breast cancer. You should discuss these results with your doctor to determine if additional tests might be helpful. A report of your mammogram results, which contains information about your breast density, has been sent to your doctor's office."*

Texas *"If your mammogram demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide abnormalities, and you have other risk factors for breast cancer that have been identified, you might benefit from supplemental*

screening tests that may be suggested by your ordering physician. Dense breast tissue, in and of itself, is a relatively common condition. Therefore, this information is not provided to cause undue concern, but rather to raise your awareness and to promote discussion with your physician regarding the presence of other risk factors, in addition to dense breast tissue. A report of your mammography results will be sent to you and your physician. You should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report.”

UTAH *“Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is common and is found in as many as half of all women. However, dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to fully and accurately evaluate your mammogram and detect early signs of possible cancer in the breast. This information is being provided to inform and encourage you to discuss your dense breast tissue and other breast cancer risk factors with your health care provider. Together, you can decide what may be best for you. A copy of your mammography report has been sent to your health care provider. Please contact them if you have any questions or concerns about this notice.”*

VERMONT *“Your mammogram indicates that you have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is a normal finding that is present in about 40 percent of women. Dense breast tissue can make it more difficult to detect cancer on a mammogram and may be associated with a slightly increased risk for breast cancer. This information is provided to raise your awareness of the impact of breast density on cancer detection and to encourage you to discuss this issue, as well as other breast cancer risk factors, with your health care provider as you decide together which screening options may be right for you.”*

VIRGINIA **One year after passing a mandate, Virginia amended its notice requirement:** *“Your mammogram demonstrates that you may have dense breast tissue. Dense breast tissue is very common and is not abnormal. However, dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and may also be associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. This information is given to you to raise your awareness. Use this information to talk to your doctor about your own risks for breast cancer. At that time, ask your doctor if more screening tests might be useful based on your risk. A report of your mammography results has been sent to your referring physician’s office, and you should contact your physician if you have any questions or concerns about this report.”*

WASHINGTON *“Your mammogram indicates that you may have dense breast tissue. Roughly half of all women have dense breast tissue which is normal. Dense breast tissue may make it more difficult to evaluate your mammogram. We are sharing this information with you and your health care provider to help raise your awareness of breast density. We encourage you to talk with your health care provider about this and other breast cancer risk factors. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you.”*

WISCONSIN *“Your mammogram shows that your breast tissue is dense. Dense breast tissue is found in almost 40 percent of women and is a normal finding. However, studies show that dense breast tissue can make it harder to find cancer on a mammogram and is associated with a slightly increased risk of breast cancer. Regular screening mammograms are still recommended for you. This information is provided to raise your awareness about the result of your mammogram. You can use this information to talk with your health care professional about your own risks for breast cancer. Together, you can decide which screening options are right for you. The results of your mammogram were sent to your doctor. Please note that breast density is affected by several factors and may change over time.”*