

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 7, 2010
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: SB 836
AUTHOR: J. Oropeza

BILL SUMMARY: Breast Cancer Screening: Expanded Coverage

This bill would require the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide breast cancer screening and diagnostic services to all individuals of any age who are symptomatic with a physician recommendation and to individuals who are 40 years of age or older, provided that the individual meets the state eligibility requirements described in this section.

This bill would appropriate an unspecified amount to the DPH to fund the breast and cervical cancer early detection program.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The DPH estimates this bill would most likely result in approximately \$86 million General Fund costs. There are 2.1 million women age 25 to 49 in California who would meet the eligibility requirements for screening services through the Every Women Counts program as a result of this bill. Of this number, approximately 611,000 women would likely seek non-routine cancer screening services at a cost of \$141 per patient. However, if all 2.1 million eligible women seek screening services through this program, this bill would result in approximately \$296 million General Fund annually.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance opposes this bill because it would put additional pressure on the General Fund.

As of January 1, 2010, the DPH made an administrative policy change to its eligibility requirements for the Every Woman Counts breast and cervical cancer screening program by increasing the minimum age of service eligibility from women age 40 and above to women age 50 and above. Additionally, the DPH imposed a temporary six-month freeze on the enrollment of new patients. These policy changes were a result of a decline in available resources to sustain a full year of services at that level of demand. Current funding sources are expected to continually decline throughout the next fiscal year, likely resulting in another freeze on enrollment.

Additionally, a federal advisory group, the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force, recently issued recommendations that women at average risk for breast cancer wait until age 50 for routine mammography screening and then be screened every other year until age 74. In this study, the statistics showed that one life would be saved for every 1,900 women ages 40-49 screened for 10 years. The task force concluded that those survival benefits did not outweigh the potential risks associated with screening. The harm resulting from screening includes anxiety associated with testing, unnecessary imaging tests and biopsies in women without cancer, and inconvenience due to false-positive screening results.

Related Bills

AB 1640 (Evans and Nava): This bill would require DPH to provide at least a 90-day notice to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee regarding intended changes to the Every Woman Counts program. This bill

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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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would also express the intent of the Legislature that the screening services for the program meet the demand based on the eligibility requirements in place as of December 31, 2009.

AB 113 (Portantino): This bill would require health care service plan contracts and health insurance policies that are issued, amended, delivered, or renewed on or after July 1, 2011, to provide coverage for mammography for screening or diagnostic purposes upon referral of certain health care professionals, regardless of age.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO RV	PROP 98	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	2011-2012	
4265/PublicHealth	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----				0001
4265/PublicHealth	LA	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----				0001