

~~WHEREAS, 43,000 women in the United States are estimated to have died of breast cancer in 1989; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Breast cancer is the number one cause of cancer deaths in the United States for women; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Mammography, a low dose X ray of the breast, can identify a lump in the breast long before it can be felt by the patient or physician; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Clinical studies have shown that mammography screening reduces mortality by 30% at 5 years; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Treatment for breast cancer in the later stages of development costs more than \$60,000 per patient compared to approximately \$22,000 per patient in its early stages; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The cost of insurance coverage for full reimbursement for mammography is less than 40 cents per individual per month; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The State has significant interest in protecting the health of its citizens and the well being of its families; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Mammography screening is cost effective; and~~

~~WHEREAS, At least 25 other states have mammography screening as a health benefit; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Maryland have made mammography screening a benefit for its individual policyholders; and~~

~~WHEREAS, State employees have mammography screening as a health benefit; now, therefore;~~

~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

~~Article 48A — Insurance Code~~

~~490 O.~~

~~(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

~~(2) "INSURANCE CONTRACT" MEANS A CONTRACT OR POLICY ISSUED OR DELIVERED IN THIS STATE TO AN EMPLOYER OR INDIVIDUAL BY AN INSURER OR NONPROFIT HEALTH SERVICE PLAN THAT PROVIDES GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR SURGICAL BENEFITS ON AN EXPENSE INCURRED BASIS.~~