

Maryland HB 1364: Breast Arterial Calcification Notice

Status: Signed by Gov. Moore on May 26, 2026. It took effect October 1, 2026, so it's in force now.^{1,3}

What it does: Every mammography center in Maryland must include a standard notice about breast arterial calcification (BAC) in the screening results letter it sends to patients. This is the plain-language results letter that federal MQSA rules already require.^{2,3}

Who It Applies To

A “center” is any facility that produces, develops, or interprets screening or diagnostic mammograms.

That includes:

- Hospitals and outpatient departments
- Radiology practices and imaging clinics
- Labs and physician offices that do mammography

VA facilities are exempt.

The Required Notice (Summary)²

- BAC is a common finding, but it may signal a higher risk of cardiovascular disease.
- Patients with BAC should talk with their physician about their cardiovascular risk and whether more testing is appropriate.
- The notice is meant to inform that conversation. A full report has been sent to the patient's physician.

The Maryland Department of Health can change the wording by regulation if it no longer matches current medical evidence.

Liability and Enforcement

- **No new standard of care.** The law says it can't be read to create a standard of care, obligation, or duty that someone could sue over.^{2,3}
- **The \$1,000 penalty cap isn't clearly tied to this notice.** The cap applies to the existing qualification and accreditation rules. The law doesn't set a specific penalty for leaving out the BAC notice.³
- **Fiscal impact is minimal.** There's no material cost to the state or local governments, and only a minimal effect on small businesses.²

Background from the Fiscal and Policy Note²

- BAC can be seen on a routine mammogram and is linked to a higher risk of heart disease and stroke.
- No similar bill had been introduced in Maryland in the previous three years. That makes Maryland an early mover on BAC notification.

What It Means for Providers

Radiology and Imaging Centers

- **Update your letter templates now.** The wording is set in statute, so use the exact text.
- **The notice likely goes in every screening letter.** It's written conditionally (“If your mammogram shows...”), and the law doesn't limit it to patients with BAC. Confirm this reading with counsel.
- **Report BAC consistently.** The law doesn't require you to grade BAC or include it in the radiology report. But patients will now be told to ask about it, so a consistent reporting practice matters.
- **Federal rules make the new standalone notice the key piece.** The law also adds BAC wording to Maryland's breast density notice. However, that density notice doesn't apply when federal MQSA rules require their own density notice, and the federal rule has been in effect since September 2024. In practice, the separate BAC notice is what centers need to add.³

Referring Physicians (Primary Care, OB/GYN, Cardiology)

- **Expect more patient questions about BAC.** Patients will be prompted to ask about cardiovascular risk and possible further testing.
- **Plan your response ahead of time.** Decide how you'll handle these questions, for example with a risk-factor review, lipids and blood pressure, or a cardiology referral where appropriate.

REFERENCES

1. Maryland General Assembly. HB 1364, Public Health – Mammograms – Arterial Calcification Notice. 2026 Regular Session. mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/HB1364?ys=2026rs. Accessed October 9, 2026.
2. Department of Legislative Services. Fiscal and Policy Note (Third Reader – Revised), House Bill 1364. 2026 Session. mgaleg.maryland.gov/2026RS/fnotes/bil_0004/hb1364.pdf. Accessed October 9, 2026.
3. Laws of Maryland 2026, Chapter 604 (House Bill 1364). leg.maryland.gov/2026RS/Chapters/noln/CH_604_hb1364t.pdf. Accessed October 9, 2026.