

# Genetic Testing Insurance Coverage in Arkansas

HB 1079, by Rep. Fred Allen, Sen. David Wallace



## Talking Points:

- Passage of this legislation will allow patients to better understand their lifetime cancer risk, and access recommended cancer screening.
- Everyone should have the vital information needed to make informed decisions about their healthcare without burdensome financial barriers.
- Identification of inherited cancer risk can help guide decisions regarding recommended screenings for the early detection of cancer, personalized cancer treatments and risk-reducing medical treatments.
- This legislation removes financial obstacles to genetic testing and recommended imaging, ensuring that every individual has access to vital information about their cancer risk, without the burden of out-of-pocket costs.
- Eliminating financial barriers empowers patients to make informed decisions about their health and enables access to early detection and prevention.
- By increasing access to genetic testing, we can empower more Arkansans with the vital information they need to make the best-informed decisions about their healthcare and maintain more control in very uncontrollable circumstances.

## Quick Facts:

- HB 1079 would eliminate cost-sharing requirements for clinically appropriate genetic testing, as well as the recommended cancer imaging based on the results of that testing.
- The lifetime risk of breast cancer increases 20–49% for women with moderate risk inherited gene mutations and 50% or more for women with high-risk inherited gene mutations.
- Germline testing is a type of test that looks for inherited mutations that have been present in every cell of the body since birth. These tests are most often conducted via the collection and analysis of blood, saliva or cheek cells.
- Identification of inherited cancer risk can help guide decisions regarding recommended screenings for the early detection of cancer, personalized cancer treatments and risk-reducing medical treatments.