

- SUBJECT:** Expanding minimum health coverage for ovarian cancer screening
- COMMITTEE:** Insurance — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** *After recommitted:*  
9 ayes — Phillips, Muñoz, R. Anderson, Gooden, Oliverson, Paul, Sanford, Turner, Vo  
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** *April 18 public hearing:*  
For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* V.A. Stephens and Michelle Wittenburg, KK125)  
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Insurance Code, sec. 1370.003 requires health benefit plans that cover diagnostic medical procedures to include coverage for an annual medically recognized diagnostic examination for the early detection of cervical cancer and ovarian cancer. Any woman 18 or older and enrolled in the plan is entitled to the coverage. Required coverage for a cervical cancer and ovarian cancer screening includes at a minimum a CA 125 blood test and a conventional Pap smear screening or a liquid-based cytology screening, alone or in combination with a test for the detection of the human papillomavirus (HPV).
- DIGEST:** HB 3304 would require health benefit plans that cover diagnostic medical procedures to include coverage for any other test or screening approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for the detection of ovarian cancer in an annual medically recognized diagnostic examination.  
  
The bill would take effect September 1, 2017, and would apply to a health benefit plan issued on or after January 1, 2018.
- SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 3304 would make headway in the prevention and early detection of ovarian cancer by ensuring that certain health insurance plans provided

coverage for all federally approved tests for ovarian cancer as part of annual well-woman exams. Ovarian cancer has a high mortality rate, largely because the disease has vague symptoms that are not unique to ovarian cancer and that patients do not recognize until the disease is too advanced to treat effectively. Expanding ovarian cancer screening minimum health coverage would give more Texas women the best chance for early detection and effective treatment of this disease.

**OPPONENTS SAY:** HB 3304 inappropriately would create a state mandate by requiring health insurance companies to include an additional test in their plan's minimum health coverage. Such mandates drive up the cost of health care and insurance and are not the proper role of government.

**NOTES:** HB 3304 was reported from the House Committee on Insurance on April 25, sent to Calendars, recommitted to committee, and reported favorably again on April 26.