

1 AN ACT

2 relating to regulation of abortion; creating an offense.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

4 SECTION 1. Subtitle H, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is
5 amended by adding Chapter 171 to read as follows:

6 CHAPTER 171. ABORTION

7 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

8 Sec. 171.001. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be called the
9 Woman's Right to Know Act.

10 Sec. 171.002. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "abortion"
11 means the use of any means to terminate the pregnancy of a female
12 known by the attending physician to be pregnant with the intention
13 that the termination of the pregnancy by those means will, with
14 reasonable likelihood, cause the death of the fetus.

15 Sec. 171.003. PHYSICIAN TO PERFORM. An abortion may be
16 performed only by a physician licensed to practice medicine in this
17 state.

18 Sec. 171.004. ABORTION OF FETUS AGE 16 WEEKS OR MORE. An
19 abortion of a fetus age 16 weeks or more may be performed only at an
20 ambulatory surgical center or hospital licensed to perform the
21 abortion.

22 Sec. 171.005. DEPARTMENT TO ENFORCE. The department shall
23 enforce this chapter.

24 [Sections 171.006-171.010 reserved for expansion]

1 SUBCHAPTER B. INFORMED CONSENT

2 Sec. 171.011. INFORMED CONSENT REQUIRED. A person may not
3 perform an abortion without the voluntary and informed consent of
4 the woman on whom the abortion is to be performed.

5 Sec. 171.012. VOLUNTARY AND INFORMED CONSENT. (a) Except
6 in the case of a medical emergency, consent to an abortion is
7 voluntary and informed only if:

8 (1) the physician who is to perform the abortion or the
9 referring physician informs the woman on whom the abortion is to be
10 performed of:

11 (A) the name of the physician who will perform
12 the abortion;

13 (B) the particular medical risks associated with
14 the particular abortion procedure to be employed, including, when
15 medically accurate:

16 (i) the risks of infection and hemorrhage;
17 (ii) the potential danger to a subsequent
18 pregnancy and of infertility; and

19 (iii) the possibility of increased risk of
20 breast cancer following an induced abortion and the natural
21 protective effect of a completed pregnancy in avoiding breast
22 cancer;

23 (C) the probable gestational age of the unborn
24 child at the time the abortion is to be performed; and

25 (D) the medical risks associated with carrying
26 the child to term;

27 (2) the physician who is to perform the abortion or the

1 physician's agent informs the woman that:

2 (A) medical assistance benefits may be available
3 for prenatal care, childbirth, and neonatal care;

4 (B) the father is liable for assistance in the
5 support of the child without regard to whether the father has
6 offered to pay for the abortion;

7 (C) public and private agencies provide
8 pregnancy prevention counseling and medical referrals for
9 obtaining pregnancy prevention medications or devices, including
10 emergency contraception for victims of rape or incest; and

11 (D) the woman has the right to review the printed
12 materials described by Section 171.014, that those materials have
13 been provided by the Texas Department of Health and are accessible
14 on an Internet website sponsored by the department, and that the
15 materials describe the unborn child and list agencies that offer
16 alternatives to abortion;

17 (3) the woman certifies in writing before the abortion
18 is performed that the information described by Subdivisions (1) and
19 (2) has been provided to her and that she has been informed of her
20 opportunity to review the information described by Section 171.014;
21 and

22 (4) before the abortion is performed, the physician
23 who is to perform the abortion receives a copy of the written
24 certification required by Subdivision (3).

25 (b) The information required to be provided under
26 Subsections (a)(1) and (2) must be provided:

27 (1) orally by telephone or in person; and

1 (2) at least 24 hours before the abortion is to be
2 performed.

3 (c) When providing the information under Subsection
4 (a)(2)(D), the physician or the physician's agent must provide the
5 woman with the address of the Internet website on which the printed
6 materials described by Section 171.014 may be viewed as required by
7 Section 171.014(e).

8 (d) The information provided to the woman under Subsection
9 (a)(2)(B) must include, based on information available from the
10 Office of the Attorney General and the United States Department of
11 Health and Human Services Office of Child Support Enforcement for
12 the three-year period preceding the publication of the information,
13 information regarding the statistical likelihood of collecting
14 child support.

15 (e) The department is not required to republish
16 informational materials described by Subsection (a)(2)(B) because
17 of a change in information described by Subsection (d) unless the
18 statistical information in the materials changes by five percent or
19 more.

20 Sec. 171.013. DISTRIBUTION OF STATE MATERIALS. (a) If the
21 woman chooses to view the materials described by Section 171.014,
22 the physician or the physician's agent shall furnish copies of the
23 materials to her at least 24 hours before the abortion is to be
24 performed. A physician or the physician's agent may furnish the
25 materials to the woman by mail if the materials are mailed,
26 restricted delivery to addressee, at least 72 hours before the
27 abortion is to be performed.

1 (b) A physician or the physician's agent is not required to
2 furnish copies of the materials if the woman provides the physician
3 with a written statement that she chooses to view the materials on
4 the Internet website sponsored by the department.

5 (c) The physician and the physician's agent may
6 disassociate themselves from the materials and may choose to
7 comment on the materials or to refrain from commenting.

8 Sec. 171.014. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS. (a) The department
9 shall publish informational materials that include:

10 (1) the information required to be provided under
11 Sections 171.012(a)(1)(B) and (D) and (a)(2)(A), (B), and (C); and

12 (2) the materials required by Sections 171.015 and
13 171.016.

14 (b) The materials shall be published in:

15 (1) English and Spanish;

16 (2) an easily comprehensible form; and

17 (3) a typeface large enough to be clearly legible.

18 (c) The materials shall be available at no cost from the
19 department on request. The department shall provide appropriate
20 quantities of the materials to any person.

21 (d) The department shall annually review the materials to
22 determine if changes to the contents of the materials are
23 necessary. The department shall adopt rules necessary for
24 considering and making changes to the materials.

25 (e) The department shall develop and maintain an Internet
26 website to display the information required to be published under
27 this section. In developing and maintaining the website the

1 department shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, safeguard
2 the website against alterations by anyone other than the department
3 and shall monitor the website each day to prevent and correct
4 tampering. The department shall ensure that the website does not
5 collect or maintain information regarding access to the website.

6 (f) In addition to any other organization or entity, the
7 department shall use the American College of Obstetricians and
8 Gynecologists as the resource in developing information required to
9 be provided under Sections 171.012(a)(1)(B) and (D), Sections
10 171.012(a)(2)(A), (B), and (C), and Section 171.016, and in
11 maintaining the department's Internet website.

12 Sec. 171.015. INFORMATION RELATING TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
13 AGENCIES. The informational materials must include either:

14 (1) geographically indexed materials designed to
15 inform the woman of public and private agencies and services that:

16 (A) are available to assist a woman through
17 pregnancy, childbirth, and the child's dependency, including:

18 (i) a comprehensive list of adoption
19 agencies;

20 (ii) a description of the services the
21 adoption agencies offer; and

22 (iii) a description of the manner,
23 including telephone numbers, in which an adoption agency may be
24 contacted;

25 (B) do not provide abortions or abortion-related
26 services or make referrals to abortion providers; and

27 (C) are not affiliated with organizations that

1 provide abortions or abortion-related services or make referrals to
2 abortion providers; or

3 (2) a toll-free, 24-hour telephone number that may be
4 called to obtain an oral list and description of agencies described
5 by Subdivision (1) that are located near the caller and of the
6 services the agencies offer.

7 Sec. 171.016. INFORMATION RELATING TO CHARACTERISTICS OF
8 UNBORN CHILD. (a) The informational materials must include
9 materials designed to inform the woman of the probable anatomical
10 and physiological characteristics of the unborn child at two-week
11 gestational increments from the time when a woman can be known to be
12 pregnant to full term, including any relevant information on the
13 possibility of the unborn child's survival.

14 (b) The materials must include color pictures representing
15 the development of the child at two-week gestational increments.
16 The pictures must contain the dimensions of the unborn child and
17 must be realistic.

18 (c) The materials provided under this section must be
19 objective and nonjudgmental and be designed to convey only accurate
20 scientific information about the unborn child at the various
21 gestational ages.

22 Sec. 171.017. PERIODS RUN CONCURRENTLY. If the woman is an
23 unemancipated minor subject to Chapter 33, Family Code, the 24-hour
24 periods established under Sections 171.012(b) and 171.013(a) may
25 run concurrently with the period during which actual or
26 constructive notice is provided under Section 33.002, Family Code.

27 Sec. 171.018. OFFENSE. A physician who intentionally

1 performs an abortion on a woman in violation of this subchapter
2 commits an offense. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor
3 punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000. In this section,
4 "intentionally" has the meaning assigned by Section 6.03(a), Penal
5 Code.

6 SECTION 2. Section 245.004, Health and Safety Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Sec. 245.004. EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSING REQUIREMENT. (a)
9 The following facilities need not be licensed under this chapter:

10 (1) a hospital licensed under Chapter 241 (Texas
11 Hospital Licensing Law); ~~[or]~~

12 (2) the office of a physician licensed under Subtitle
13 B, Title 3, Occupations Code, unless the office is used
14 substantially for the purpose of performing ~~[more than 300]~~
15 abortions; or

16 (3) an ambulatory surgical center licensed under
17 Chapter 243 ~~[in any 12-month period]~~.

18 (b) For purposes of this section, a facility is used
19 substantially for the purpose of performing abortions if the
20 facility:

21 (1) is a provider for performing:

22 (A) at least 10 abortion procedures during any
23 month; or

24 (B) at least 100 abortion procedures in a year;

25 (2) operates less than 20 days in a month and the
26 facility, in any month, is a provider for performing a number of
27 abortion procedures that would be equivalent to at least 10

1 procedures in a month if the facility were operating at least 20
2 days in a month;

3 (3) holds itself out to the public as an abortion
4 provider by advertising by any public means, including advertising
5 placed in a newspaper, telephone directory, magazine, or electronic
6 medium, that the facility performs abortions; or

7 (4) applies for an abortion facility license.

8 (c) For purposes of this section, an abortion facility is
9 operating if the facility is open for any period of time during a
10 day and has on site at the facility or on call a physician available
11 to perform abortions. [~~In computing the number of abortions~~
12 ~~performed in the office of a physician under Subsection (a)(2), an~~
13 ~~abortion performed in accordance with Section 245.016 is not~~
14 ~~included.]~~

15 SECTION 3. Section 245.007, Health and Safety Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 Sec. 245.007. FEES. The board shall set fees imposed by
18 this chapter in amounts reasonable and necessary to defray the cost
19 of administering this chapter and Chapter 171.

20 SECTION 4. Section 245.010(a), Health and Safety Code, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (a) The rules must contain minimum standards to protect the
23 health and safety of a patient of an abortion facility and must
24 contain provisions requiring compliance with the requirements of
25 Subchapter B, Chapter 171.

26 SECTION 5. The Texas Department of Health shall prepare the
27 informational materials required by Section 171.014, Health and

1 Safety Code, as added by this Act, and shall have the materials
2 available for distribution as required by Chapter 171, Health and
3 Safety Code, as added by this Act, not later than December 1, 2003.

4 SECTION 6. If any provision of this Act or its application
5 to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does
6 not affect other provisions or applications of the Act that can be
7 given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to
8 this end the provisions of this Act are severable.

9 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003, and
10 applies only to an abortion that is performed on or after January 1,
11 2004. An abortion that is performed before January 1, 2004, is
12 governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective
13 date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that
14 purpose.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 15 was passed by the House on April 30, 2003, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 15 on May 23, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 15 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 21, Nays 10.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor