AN ACT

relating to regulation of abortion; creating an offense.

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

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

CHAPTER 171. ABORTION

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

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

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

[Sections 171.006-171.010 reserved for expansion]
SUBCHAPTER B. INFORMED CONSENT

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

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

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

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

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

(i) the risks of infection and hemorrhage;

(ii) the potential danger to a subsequent pregnancy and of infertility; and

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

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

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

(2) the physician who is to perform the abortion or the
physician's agent informs the woman that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) orally by telephone or in person; and
(2) at least 24 hours before the abortion is to be
performed.

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

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

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

Sec. 171.013. DISTRIBUTION OF STATE MATERIALS. (a) If the
woman chooses to view the materials described by Section 171.014,
the physician or the physician's agent shall furnish copies of the
materials to her at least 24 hours before the abortion is to be
performed. A physician or the physician's agent may furnish the
materials to the woman by mail if the materials are mailed,
restricted delivery to addressee, at least 72 hours before the
abortion is to be performed.
(b) A physician or the physician's agent is not required to furnish copies of the materials if the woman provides the physician with a written statement that she chooses to view the materials on the Internet website sponsored by the department.

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

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

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

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

(b) The materials shall be published in:

(1) English and Spanish;

(2) an easily comprehensible form; and

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

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

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

(e) The department shall develop and maintain an Internet website to display the information required to be published under this section. In developing and maintaining the website the
department shall, to the extent reasonably practicable, safeguard
the website against alterations by anyone other than the department
and shall monitor the website each day to prevent and correct
tampering. The department shall ensure that the website does not
collect or maintain information regarding access to the website.

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

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

(1) geographically indexed materials designed to
inform the woman of public and private agencies and services that:
(A) are available to assist a woman through
pregnancy, childbirth, and the child's dependency, including:
   (i) a comprehensive list of adoption
   agencies;
   (ii) a description of the services the
   adoption agencies offer; and
   (iii) a description of the manner,
   including telephone numbers, in which an adoption agency may be
   contacted;
(B) do not provide abortions or abortion-related
services or make referrals to abortion providers; and
(C) are not affiliated with organizations that
provide abortions or abortion-related services or make referrals to
abortion providers; or

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 171.018. OFFENSE. A physician who intentionally
performs an abortion on a woman in violation of this subchapter
commits an offense. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor
punishable by a fine not to exceed $10,000. In this section,
"intentionally" has the meaning assigned by Section 6.03(a), Penal
Code.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) is a provider for performing:

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

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

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

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

(4) applies for an abortion facility license.

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 5. The Texas Department of Health shall prepare the
informational materials required by Section 171.014, Health and
Safety Code, as added by this Act, and shall have the materials available for distribution as required by Chapter 171, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, not later than December 1, 2003.

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

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