

By: Laubenberg

H.B. No. 2

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers, and
3 facilities; providing penalties.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) The findings indicate that:

6 (1) substantial medical evidence recognizes that an
7 unborn child is capable of experiencing pain by not later than 20
8 weeks after fertilization;

9 (2) the state has a compelling state interest in
10 protecting the lives of unborn children from the stage at which
11 substantial medical evidence indicates that these children are
12 capable of feeling pain;

13 (3) the compelling state interest in protecting the
14 lives of unborn children from the stage at which substantial
15 medical evidence indicates that an unborn child is capable of
16 feeling pain is intended to be separate from and independent of the
17 compelling state interest in protecting the lives of unborn
18 children from the stage of viability, and neither state interest is
19 intended to replace the other; and

20 (4) restricting elective abortions at or later than 20
21 weeks post-fertilization, as provided by this Act, does not impose
22 an undue burden or a substantial obstacle on a woman's ability to
23 have an abortion because:

24 (A) the woman has adequate time to decide whether

1 to have an abortion in the first 20 weeks after fertilization; and

2 (B) this Act does not apply to abortions that are
3 necessary to avert the death or substantial and irreversible
4 physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant
5 woman or abortions that are performed on unborn children with
6 severe fetal abnormalities.

7 (b) The legislature intends that every application of this
8 statute to every individual woman shall be severable from each
9 other. In the unexpected event that the application of this statute
10 is found to impose an impermissible undue burden on any pregnant
11 woman or group of pregnant women, the application of the statute to
12 those women shall be severed from the remaining applications of the
13 statute that do not impose an undue burden, and those remaining
14 applications shall remain in force and unaffected, consistent with
15 Section 10 of this Act.

16 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 171, Health and Safety
17 Code, is amended by adding Section 171.0031 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 171.0031. REQUIREMENTS OF PHYSICIAN; OFFENSE. (a) A
19 physician performing or inducing an abortion:

20 (1) must, on the date the abortion is performed or
21 induced, have active admitting privileges at a hospital that:

22 (A) is located not further than 30 miles from the
23 location at which the abortion is performed or induced; and

24 (B) provides obstetrical or gynecological health
25 care services; and

26 (2) shall provide the pregnant woman with:

27 (A) a telephone number by which the pregnant

1 woman may reach the physician, or other health care personnel
2 employed by the physician or by the facility at which the abortion
3 was performed or induced with access to the woman's relevant
4 medical records, 24 hours a day to request assistance for any
5 complications that arise from the performance or induction of the
6 abortion or ask health-related questions regarding the abortion;
7 and

8 (B) the name and telephone number of the nearest
9 hospital to the home of the pregnant woman at which an emergency
10 arising from the abortion would be treated.

11 (b) A physician who violates Subsection (a) commits an
12 offense. An offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor
13 punishable by a fine only, not to exceed \$4,000.

14 SECTION 3. Chapter 171, Health and Safety Code, is amended
15 by adding Subchapters C and D to read as follows:

16 SUBCHAPTER C. ABORTION PROHIBITED AT OR AFTER 20 WEEKS

17 POST-FERTILIZATION

18 Sec. 171.041. SHORT TITLE. This subchapter may be cited as
19 the Preborn Pain Act.

20 Sec. 171.042. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

21 (1) "Post-fertilization age" means the age of the
22 unborn child as calculated from the fusion of a human spermatozoon
23 with a human ovum.

24 (2) "Severe fetal abnormality" has the meaning
25 assigned by Section 285.202.

26 Sec. 171.043. DETERMINATION OF POST-FERTILIZATION AGE
27 REQUIRED. Except as otherwise provided by Section 171.046, a

1 physician may not perform or induce or attempt to perform or induce
2 an abortion without, prior to the procedure:

3 (1) making a determination of the probable
4 post-fertilization age of the unborn child; or

5 (2) possessing and relying on a determination of the
6 probable post-fertilization age of the unborn child made by another
7 physician.

8 Sec. 171.044. ABORTION OF UNBORN CHILD OF 20 OR MORE WEEKS
9 POST-FERTILIZATION AGE PROHIBITED. Except as otherwise provided by
10 Section 171.046, a person may not perform or induce or attempt to
11 perform or induce an abortion on a woman if it has been determined,
12 by the physician performing, inducing, or attempting to perform or
13 induce the abortion or by another physician on whose determination
14 that physician relies, that the probable post-fertilization age of
15 the unborn child is 20 or more weeks.

16 Sec. 171.045. METHOD OF ABORTION. (a) This section
17 applies only to an abortion authorized under Section 171.046(a)(1)
18 or (2) in which:

19 (1) the probable post-fertilization age of the unborn
20 child is 20 or more weeks; or

21 (2) the probable post-fertilization age of the unborn
22 child has not been determined but could reasonably be 20 or more
23 weeks.

24 (b) Except as otherwise provided by Section 171.046(a)(3),
25 a physician performing an abortion under Subsection (a) shall
26 terminate the pregnancy in the manner that, in the physician's
27 reasonable medical judgment, provides the best opportunity for the

1 unborn child to survive.

2 Sec. 171.046. EXCEPTIONS. (a) The prohibitions and
3 requirements under Sections 171.043, 171.044, and 171.045(b) do not
4 apply to an abortion performed if there exists a condition that, in
5 the physician's reasonable medical judgment, so complicates the
6 medical condition of the woman that, to avert the woman's death or a
7 serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of
8 a major bodily function, other than a psychological condition, it
9 necessitates, as applicable:

10 (1) the immediate abortion of her pregnancy without
11 the delay necessary to determine the probable post-fertilization
12 age of the unborn child;

13 (2) the abortion of her pregnancy even though the
14 post-fertilization age of the unborn child is 20 or more weeks; or

15 (3) the use of a method of abortion other than a method
16 described by Section 171.045(b).

17 (b) A physician may not take an action authorized under
18 Subsection (a) if the risk of death or a substantial and
19 irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function arises
20 from a claim or diagnosis that the woman will engage in conduct that
21 may result in her death or in substantial and irreversible physical
22 impairment of a major bodily function.

23 (c) The prohibitions and requirements under Sections
24 171.043, 171.044, and 171.045(b) do not apply to an abortion
25 performed on an unborn child who has a severe fetal abnormality.

26 Sec. 171.047. PROTECTION OF PRIVACY IN COURT PROCEEDINGS.

27 (a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, in a civil or

1 criminal proceeding or action involving an act prohibited under
2 this subchapter, the identity of the woman on whom an abortion has
3 been performed or induced or attempted to be performed or induced is
4 not subject to public disclosure if the woman does not give consent
5 to disclosure.

6 (b) Unless the court makes a ruling under Subsection (c) to
7 allow disclosure of the woman's identity, the court shall issue
8 orders to the parties, witnesses, and counsel and shall direct the
9 sealing of the record and exclusion of individuals from courtrooms
10 or hearing rooms to the extent necessary to protect the woman's
11 identity from public disclosure.

12 (c) A court may order the disclosure of information that is
13 confidential under this section if:

14 (1) a motion is filed with the court requesting
15 release of the information and a hearing on that request;

16 (2) notice of the hearing is served on each interested
17 party; and

18 (3) the court determines after the hearing and an in
19 camera review that disclosure is essential to the administration of
20 justice and there is no reasonable alternative to disclosure.

21 Sec. 171.048. CONSTRUCTION OF SUBCHAPTER. (a) This
22 subchapter shall be construed, as a matter of state law, to be
23 enforceable up to but no further than the maximum possible extent
24 consistent with federal constitutional requirements, even if that
25 construction is not readily apparent, as such constructions are
26 authorized only to the extent necessary to save the subchapter from
27 judicial invalidation. Judicial reformation of statutory language

1 is explicitly authorized only to the extent necessary to save the
2 statutory provision from invalidity.

3 (b) If any court determines that a provision of this
4 subchapter is unconstitutionally vague, the court shall interpret
5 the provision, as a matter of state law, to avoid the vagueness
6 problem and shall enforce the provision to the maximum possible
7 extent. If a federal court finds any provision of this subchapter
8 or its application to any person, group of persons, or
9 circumstances to be unconstitutionally vague and declines to impose
10 the saving construction described by this subsection, the Supreme
11 Court of Texas shall provide an authoritative construction of the
12 objectionable statutory provisions that avoids the constitutional
13 problems while enforcing the statute's restrictions to the maximum
14 possible extent, and shall agree to answer any question certified
15 from a federal appellate court regarding the statute.

16 (c) A state executive or administrative official may not
17 decline to enforce this subchapter, or adopt a construction of this
18 subchapter in a way that narrows its applicability, based on the
19 official's own beliefs about what the state or federal constitution
20 requires, unless the official is enjoined by a state or federal
21 court from enforcing this subchapter.

22 (d) This subchapter may not be construed to authorize the
23 prosecution of or a cause of action to be brought against a woman on
24 whom an abortion is performed or induced or attempted to be
25 performed or induced in violation of this subchapter.

26 SUBCHAPTER D. ABORTION-INDUCING DRUGS

27 Sec. 171.061. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1 (1) "Abortion" means the act of using, administering,
2 prescribing, or otherwise providing an instrument, a drug, a
3 medicine, or any other substance, device, or means with the intent
4 to terminate a clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman and with
5 knowledge that the termination by those means will, with reasonable
6 likelihood, cause the death of the woman's unborn child. An act is
7 not an abortion if the act is done with the intent to:

8 (A) save the life or preserve the health of an
9 unborn child;

10 (B) remove a dead, unborn child whose death was
11 caused by spontaneous abortion;

12 (C) remove an ectopic pregnancy; or

13 (D) treat a maternal disease or illness for which
14 a prescribed drug, medicine, or other substance is indicated.

15 (2) "Abortion-inducing drug" means a drug, a medicine,
16 or any other substance, including a regimen of two or more drugs,
17 medicines, or substances, prescribed, dispensed, or administered
18 with the intent of terminating a clinically diagnosable pregnancy
19 of a woman and with knowledge that the termination will, with
20 reasonable likelihood, cause the death of the woman's unborn child.
21 The term includes off-label use of drugs, medicines, or other
22 substances known to have abortion-inducing properties that are
23 prescribed, dispensed, or administered with the intent of causing
24 an abortion, including the Mifeprex regimen. The term does not
25 include a drug, medicine, or other substance that may be known to
26 cause an abortion but is prescribed, dispensed, or administered for
27 other medical reasons.

1 (3) "Final printed label" or "FPL" means the
2 informational document approved by the United States Food and Drug
3 Administration for an abortion-inducing drug that:

4 (A) outlines the protocol authorized by that
5 agency and agreed to by the drug company applying for authorization
6 of the drug by that agency; and

7 (B) delineates how a drug is to be used according
8 to approval by that agency.

9 (4) "Gestational age" means the amount of time that
10 has elapsed since the first day of a woman's last menstrual period.

11 (5) "Medical abortion" means the administration or use
12 of an abortion-inducing drug to induce an abortion.

13 (6) "Mifeprex regimen," "RU-486 regimen," or "RU-486"
14 means the abortion-inducing drug regimen approved by the United
15 States Food and Drug Administration that consists of administering
16 mifepristone and misoprostol.

17 (7) "Physician" means an individual who is licensed to
18 practice medicine in this state, including a medical doctor and a
19 doctor of osteopathic medicine.

20 (8) "Pregnant" means the female reproductive
21 condition of having an unborn child in a woman's uterus.

22 (9) "Unborn child" means an offspring of human beings
23 from conception until birth.

24 Sec. 171.062. ENFORCEMENT BY TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD.
25 Notwithstanding Section 171.005, the Texas Medical Board shall
26 enforce this subchapter.

27 Sec. 171.063. DISTRIBUTION OF ABORTION-INDUCING DRUG.

1 (a) A person may not knowingly give, sell, dispense, administer,
2 provide, or prescribe an abortion-inducing drug to a pregnant woman
3 for the purpose of inducing an abortion in the pregnant woman or
4 enabling another person to induce an abortion in the pregnant woman
5 unless:

6 (1) the person who gives, sells, dispenses,
7 administers, provides, or prescribes the abortion-inducing drug is
8 a physician; and

9 (2) except as otherwise provided by Subsection (b),
10 the provision, prescription, or administration of the
11 abortion-inducing drug satisfies the protocol tested and
12 authorized by the United States Food and Drug Administration as
13 outlined in the final printed label of the abortion-inducing drug.

14 (b) A person may provide, prescribe, or administer the
15 abortion-inducing drug in the dosage amount prescribed by the
16 clinical management guidelines defined by the American Congress of
17 Obstetricians and Gynecologists Practice Bulletin as those
18 guidelines existed on January 1, 2013.

19 (c) Before the physician gives, sells, dispenses,
20 administers, provides, or prescribes an abortion-inducing drug,
21 the physician must examine the pregnant woman and document, in the
22 woman's medical record, the gestational age and intrauterine
23 location of the pregnancy.

24 (d) The physician who gives, sells, dispenses, administers,
25 provides, or prescribes an abortion-inducing drug shall provide the
26 pregnant woman with:

27 (1) a copy of the final printed label of that

1 abortion-inducing drug; and

2 (2) a telephone number by which the pregnant woman may
3 reach the physician, or other health care personnel employed by the
4 physician or by the facility at which the abortion was performed
5 with access to the woman's relevant medical records, 24 hours a day
6 to request assistance for any complications that arise from the
7 administration or use of the drug or ask health-related questions
8 regarding the administration or use of the drug.

9 (e) The physician who gives, sells, dispenses, administers,
10 provides, or prescribes the abortion-inducing drug, or the
11 physician's agent, must schedule a follow-up visit for the woman to
12 occur not more than 14 days after the administration or use of the
13 drug. At the follow-up visit, the physician must:

14 (1) confirm that the pregnancy is completely
15 terminated; and

16 (2) assess the degree of bleeding.

17 (f) The physician who gives, sells, dispenses, administers,
18 provides, or prescribes the abortion-inducing drug, or the
19 physician's agent, shall make a reasonable effort to ensure that
20 the woman returns for the scheduled follow-up visit under
21 Subsection (e). The physician or the physician's agent shall
22 document a brief description of any effort made to comply with this
23 subsection, including the date, time, and name of the person making
24 the effort, in the woman's medical record.

25 (g) If a physician gives, sells, dispenses, administers,
26 provides, or prescribes an abortion-inducing drug to a pregnant
27 woman for the purpose of inducing an abortion as authorized by this

1 section and the physician knows that the woman experiences a
2 serious adverse event, as defined by the MedWatch Reporting System,
3 during or after the administration or use of the drug, the physician
4 shall report the event to the United States Food and Drug
5 Administration through the MedWatch Reporting System not later than
6 the third day after the date the physician learns that the event
7 occurred.

8 Sec. 171.064. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY. (a) The Texas
9 Medical Board may take disciplinary action under Chapter 164,
10 Occupations Code, or assess an administrative penalty under
11 Subchapter A, Chapter 165, Occupations Code, against a person who
12 violates Section 171.063.

13 (b) A penalty may not be assessed under this section against
14 a pregnant woman who receives a medical abortion.

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

17 (a) The rules must contain minimum standards to protect the
18 health and safety of a patient of an abortion facility and must
19 contain provisions requiring compliance with the requirements of
20 Subchapter B, Chapter 171. On and after September 1, 2014, the
21 minimum standards for an abortion facility must be equivalent to
22 the minimum standards adopted under Section 243.010 for ambulatory
23 surgical centers.

24 SECTION 5. Section 245.011(c), Health and Safety Code, is
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (c) The report must include:

27 (1) whether the abortion facility at which the

1 abortion is performed is licensed under this chapter;

2 (2) the patient's year of birth, race, marital status,
3 and state and county of residence;

4 (3) the type of abortion procedure;

5 (4) the date the abortion was performed;

6 (5) whether the patient survived the abortion, and if
7 the patient did not survive, the cause of death;

8 (6) the probable post-fertilization age of the unborn
9 child [~~period of gestation~~] based on the best medical judgment of
10 the attending physician at the time of the procedure;

11 (7) the date, if known, of the patient's last menstrual
12 cycle;

13 (8) the number of previous live births of the patient;

14 and

15 (9) the number of previous induced abortions of the
16 patient.

17 SECTION 6. Section 164.052(a), Occupations Code, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 (a) A physician or an applicant for a license to practice
20 medicine commits a prohibited practice if that person:

21 (1) submits to the board a false or misleading
22 statement, document, or certificate in an application for a
23 license;

24 (2) presents to the board a license, certificate, or
25 diploma that was illegally or fraudulently obtained;

26 (3) commits fraud or deception in taking or passing an
27 examination;

1 (4) uses alcohol or drugs in an intemperate manner
2 that, in the board's opinion, could endanger a patient's life;

3 (5) commits unprofessional or dishonorable conduct
4 that is likely to deceive or defraud the public, as provided by
5 Section 164.053, or injure the public;

6 (6) uses an advertising statement that is false,
7 misleading, or deceptive;

8 (7) advertises professional superiority or the
9 performance of professional service in a superior manner if that
10 advertising is not readily subject to verification;

11 (8) purchases, sells, barter, or uses, or offers to
12 purchase, sell, barter, or use, a medical degree, license,
13 certificate, or diploma, or a transcript of a license, certificate,
14 or diploma in or incident to an application to the board for a
15 license to practice medicine;

16 (9) alters, with fraudulent intent, a medical license,
17 certificate, or diploma, or a transcript of a medical license,
18 certificate, or diploma;

19 (10) uses a medical license, certificate, or diploma,
20 or a transcript of a medical license, certificate, or diploma that
21 has been:

22 (A) fraudulently purchased or issued;

23 (B) counterfeited; or

24 (C) materially altered;

25 (11) impersonates or acts as proxy for another person
26 in an examination required by this subtitle for a medical license;

27 (12) engages in conduct that subverts or attempts to

1 subvert an examination process required by this subtitle for a
2 medical license;

3 (13) impersonates a physician or permits another to
4 use the person's license or certificate to practice medicine in
5 this state;

6 (14) directly or indirectly employs a person whose
7 license to practice medicine has been suspended, canceled, or
8 revoked;

9 (15) associates in the practice of medicine with a
10 person:

11 (A) whose license to practice medicine has been
12 suspended, canceled, or revoked; or

13 (B) who has been convicted of the unlawful
14 practice of medicine in this state or elsewhere;

15 (16) performs or procures a criminal abortion, aids or
16 abets in the procuring of a criminal abortion, attempts to perform
17 or procure a criminal abortion, or attempts to aid or abet the
18 performance or procurement of a criminal abortion;

19 (17) directly or indirectly aids or abets the practice
20 of medicine by a person, partnership, association, or corporation
21 that is not licensed to practice medicine by the board;

22 (18) performs an abortion on a woman who is pregnant
23 with a viable unborn child during the third trimester of the
24 pregnancy unless:

25 (A) the abortion is necessary to prevent the
26 death of the woman;

27 (B) the viable unborn child has a severe,

1 irreversible brain impairment; or

2 (C) the woman is diagnosed with a significant
3 likelihood of suffering imminent severe, irreversible brain damage
4 or imminent severe, irreversible paralysis; ~~or~~

5 (19) performs an abortion on an unemancipated minor
6 without the written consent of the child's parent, managing
7 conservator, or legal guardian or without a court order, as
8 provided by Section 33.003 or 33.004, Family Code, authorizing the
9 minor to consent to the abortion, unless the physician concludes
10 that on the basis of the physician's good faith clinical judgment, a
11 condition exists that complicates the medical condition of the
12 pregnant minor and necessitates the immediate abortion of her
13 pregnancy to avert her death or to avoid a serious risk of
14 substantial impairment of a major bodily function and that there is
15 insufficient time to obtain the consent of the child's parent,
16 managing conservator, or legal guardian; or

17 (20) performs or induces or attempts to perform or
18 induce an abortion in violation of Subchapter C, Chapter 171,
19 Health and Safety Code.

20 SECTION 7. Section 164.055(b), Occupations Code, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 (b) The sanctions provided by Subsection (a) are in addition
23 to any other grounds for refusal to admit persons to examination
24 under this subtitle or to issue a license or renew a license to
25 practice medicine under this subtitle. The criminal penalties
26 provided by Section 165.152 do not apply to a violation of Section
27 170.002 or Subchapter C, Chapter 171, Health and Safety Code.

1 SECTION 8. Effective September 1, 2014, Section 245.010(c),
2 Health and Safety Code, is repealed.

3 SECTION 9. This Act may not be construed to repeal, by
4 implication or otherwise, Section 164.052(a)(18), Occupations
5 Code, Section 170.002, Health and Safety Code, or any other
6 provision of Texas law regulating or restricting abortion not
7 specifically addressed by this Act. An abortion that complies with
8 this Act but violates any other law is unlawful. An abortion that
9 complies with another state law but violates this Act is unlawful as
10 provided in this Act.

11 SECTION 10. (a) If some or all of the provisions of this
12 Act are ever temporarily or permanently restrained or enjoined by
13 judicial order, all other provisions of Texas law regulating or
14 restricting abortion shall be enforced as though the restrained or
15 enjoined provisions had not been adopted; provided, however, that
16 whenever the temporary or permanent restraining order or injunction
17 is stayed or dissolved, or otherwise ceases to have effect, the
18 provisions shall have full force and effect.

19 (b) Mindful of Leavitt v. Jane L., 518 U.S. 137 (1996), in
20 which in the context of determining the severability of a state
21 statute regulating abortion the United States Supreme Court held
22 that an explicit statement of legislative intent is controlling, it
23 is the intent of the legislature that every provision, section,
24 subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word in this Act, and
25 every application of the provisions in this Act, are severable from
26 each other. If any application of any provision in this Act to any
27 person, group of persons, or circumstances is found by a court to be

1 invalid, the remaining applications of that provision to all other
2 persons and circumstances shall be severed and may not be affected.
3 All constitutionally valid applications of this Act shall be
4 severed from any applications that a court finds to be invalid,
5 leaving the valid applications in force, because it is the
6 legislature's intent and priority that the valid applications be
7 allowed to stand alone. Even if a reviewing court finds a provision
8 of this Act to impose an undue burden in a large or substantial
9 fraction of relevant cases, the applications that do not present an
10 undue burden shall be severed from the remaining provisions and
11 shall remain in force, and shall be treated as if the legislature
12 had enacted a statute limited to the persons, group of persons, or
13 circumstances for which the statute's application does not present
14 an undue burden. The legislature further declares that it would
15 have passed this Act, and each provision, section, subsection,
16 sentence, clause, phrase, or word, and all constitutional
17 applications of this Act, irrespective of the fact that any
18 provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word,
19 or applications of this Act, were to be declared unconstitutional
20 or to represent an undue burden.

21 (c) If Subchapter C, Chapter 171, Health and Safety Code, as
22 added by this Act, prohibiting abortions performed on an unborn
23 child 20 or more weeks after fertilization is found by any court to
24 be invalid or to impose an undue burden as applied to any person,
25 group of persons, or circumstances, the prohibition shall apply to
26 that person or group of persons or circumstances on the earliest
27 date on which the subchapter can be constitutionally applied.

1 (d) If any provision of this Act is found by any court to be
2 unconstitutionally vague, then the applications of that provision
3 that do not present constitutional vagueness problems shall be
4 severed and remain in force.

5 SECTION 11. (a) The executive commissioner of the Health
6 and Human Services Commission shall adopt the standards required by
7 Section 245.010, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act, not
8 later than January 1, 2014.

9 (b) A facility licensed under Chapter 245, Health and Safety
10 Code, is not required to comply with the standards adopted under
11 Section 245.010, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act,
12 before September 1, 2014.

13 SECTION 12. This Act takes effect immediately if it
14 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
15 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
16 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
17 effect, this Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of
18 the legislative session.