

AN ACT

relating to reporting requirements by certain physicians and health care facilities for abortion complications; authorizing a civil penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 171, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 171.006 to read as follows:

Sec. 171.006. ABORTION COMPLICATION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; CIVIL PENALTY. (a) In this section "abortion complication" means any harmful event or adverse outcome with respect to a patient related to an abortion that is performed on the patient and that is diagnosed or treated by a health care practitioner or at a health care facility and includes:

- (1) shock;
- (2) uterine perforation;
- (3) cervical laceration;
- (4) hemorrhage;
- (5) aspiration or allergic response;
- (6) infection;
- (7) sepsis;
- (8) death of the patient;
- (9) incomplete abortion;
- (10) damage to the uterus; or
- (11) an infant born alive after the abortion.

1        (b) The reporting requirements of this section apply only  
2 to:

3            (1) a physician who:

4                    (A) performs at an abortion facility an abortion  
5 that results in an abortion complication diagnosed or treated by  
6 that physician; or

7                    (B) diagnoses or treats at an abortion facility  
8 an abortion complication that is the result of an abortion  
9 performed by another physician at the facility; or

10            (2) a health care facility that is a hospital,  
11 abortion facility, freestanding emergency medical care facility,  
12 or health care facility that provides emergency medical care, as  
13 defined by Section [773.003](#).

14        (c) A physician described by Subsection (b)(1) shall  
15 electronically submit to the commission in the form and manner  
16 prescribed by commission rule a report on each abortion  
17 complication diagnosed or treated by that physician not later than  
18 the end of the third business day after the date on which the  
19 complication is diagnosed or treated. Each health care facility  
20 described by Subsection (b)(2) shall electronically submit to the  
21 commission in the form and manner prescribed by commission rule a  
22 report on each abortion complication diagnosed or treated at the  
23 facility not later than the 30th day after the date on which the  
24 complication is diagnosed or treatment is provided for the  
25 complication.

26        (d) The commission shall develop a form for reporting an  
27 abortion complication under Subsection (c) and publish the form on

1 the commission's Internet website. The executive commissioner by  
2 rule may adopt procedures to reduce duplication in reporting under  
3 this section.

4 (e) A report under this section may not identify by any  
5 means the physician performing an abortion, other than a physician  
6 described by Subsection (b)(1), or the patient on whom the abortion  
7 was performed.

8 (f) A report under this section must identify the name of  
9 the physician submitting the report or the name and type of health  
10 care facility submitting the report and must include, if known, for  
11 each abortion complication:

12 (1) the date of the abortion that caused or may have  
13 caused the complication;

14 (2) the type of abortion that caused or may have caused  
15 the complication;

16 (3) the gestational age of the fetus at the time the  
17 abortion was performed;

18 (4) the name and type of the facility in which the  
19 abortion was performed;

20 (5) the date the complication was diagnosed or  
21 treated;

22 (6) the name and type of any facility other than the  
23 reporting facility in which the complication was diagnosed or  
24 treated;

25 (7) a description of the complication;

26 (8) the patient's year of birth, race, marital status,  
27 and state and county of residence;

1           (9) the date of the first day of the patient's last  
2 menstrual period that occurred before the date of the abortion that  
3 caused or may have caused the complication;

4           (10) the number of previous live births of the  
5 patient; and

6           (11) the number of previous induced abortions of the  
7 patient.

8           (g) Except as provided by Section 245.023, all information  
9 and records held by the commission under this section are  
10 confidential and are not open records for the purposes of Chapter  
11 552, Government Code. That information may not be released or made  
12 public on subpoena or otherwise, except release may be made:

13           (1) for statistical purposes, but only if a person,  
14 patient, or health care facility is not identified;

15           (2) with the consent of each person, patient, and  
16 facility identified in the information released;

17           (3) to medical personnel, appropriate state agencies,  
18 or county and district courts to enforce this chapter; or

19           (4) to appropriate state licensing boards to enforce  
20 state licensing laws.

21           (h) A report submitted under this section must include the  
22 most specific, accurate, and complete reporting for the highest  
23 level of specificity.

24           (i) The commission shall develop and publish on the  
25 commission's Internet website an annual report that aggregates on a  
26 statewide basis each abortion complication required to be reported  
27 under Subsection (f) for the previous calendar year. The annual

1 report may not include any duplicative data.

2 (j) A physician described by Subsection (b)(1) or health  
3 care facility that violates this section is subject to a civil  
4 penalty of \$500 for each violation. The attorney general, at the  
5 request of the commission or appropriate licensing agency, may file  
6 an action to recover a civil penalty assessed under this subsection  
7 and may recover attorney's fees and costs incurred in bringing the  
8 action. Each day of a continuing violation constitutes a separate  
9 ground for recovery.

10 (k) The third separate violation of this section  
11 constitutes cause for the revocation or suspension of a physician's  
12 or health care facility's license, permit, registration,  
13 certificate, or other authority or for other disciplinary action  
14 against the physician or facility by the appropriate licensing  
15 agency.

16 (l) The commission shall notify the Texas Medical Board of  
17 any violations of this section by a physician.

18 SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2018:

19 (1) the Health and Human Services Commission shall  
20 develop the forms required by Section 171.006, Health and Safety  
21 Code, as added by this Act; and

22 (2) the executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
23 Services Commission shall adopt the rules necessary to implement  
24 Section 171.006, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act.

25 SECTION 3. The Health and Human Services Commission shall  
26 establish an electronic reporting system for purposes of Section  
27 171.006, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, as soon as

1 practicable after the effective date of this Act.

2           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
6 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the  
7 legislative session.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 13 was passed by the House on July 28, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 94, Nays 45, 1 present, not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 13 was passed by the Senate on August 11, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 22, Nays 9.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor