87R9385 SCL-F

By:  Hefner H.B. No. 2727

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to voluntary and informed consent to an abortion.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 171.012(a), Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  Consent to an abortion is voluntary and informed only if:

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

(A)  the physician's name;

(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 pregnant 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; [~~and~~]

(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)  a person commits a criminal offense if the person causes or threatens bodily injury to a pregnant woman to force the woman to have an abortion;

(3)  the physician who is to perform the abortion or the physician's agent:

(A)  provides the pregnant woman with the printed materials described by Section 171.014; and

(B)  informs the pregnant woman that those materials:

(i)  have been provided by the Department of State Health Services;

(ii)  are accessible on an Internet website sponsored by the department;

(iii)  describe the unborn child and list agencies that offer alternatives to abortion; and

(iv)  include a list of agencies that offer sonogram services at no cost to the pregnant woman;

(4)  before any sedative or anesthesia is administered to the pregnant woman and at least 24 hours before the abortion or at least two hours before the abortion if the pregnant woman waives this requirement by certifying that she currently lives 100 miles or more from the nearest abortion provider that is a facility licensed under Chapter 245 or a facility that performs more than 50 abortions in any 12-month period:

(A)  the physician who is to perform the abortion or an agent of the physician who is also a sonographer certified by a national registry of medical sonographers performs a sonogram on the pregnant woman on whom the abortion is to be performed;

(B)  the physician who is to perform the abortion displays the sonogram images in a quality consistent with current medical practice in a manner that the pregnant woman may view them;

(C)  the physician who is to perform the abortion provides, in a manner understandable to a layperson, a verbal explanation of the results of the sonogram images, including a medical description of the dimensions of the embryo or fetus, the presence of cardiac activity, and the presence of external members and internal organs; and

(D)  the physician who is to perform the abortion or an agent of the physician who is also a sonographer certified by a national registry of medical sonographers makes audible the heart auscultation for the pregnant woman to hear, if present, in a quality consistent with current medical practice and provides, in a manner understandable to a layperson, a simultaneous verbal explanation of the heart auscultation;

(5)  before receiving a sonogram under Subdivision (4)(A) and before the abortion is performed and before any sedative or anesthesia is administered, the pregnant woman completes and certifies with her signature an election form that states as follows:

"ABORTION AND SONOGRAM ELECTION

(1)  THE INFORMATION AND PRINTED MATERIALS DESCRIBED BY SECTIONS 171.012(a)(1)-(3), TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE, HAVE BEEN PROVIDED AND EXPLAINED TO ME.

(2)  I UNDERSTAND THE NATURE AND CONSEQUENCES OF AN ABORTION.

(3)  TEXAS LAW REQUIRES THAT I RECEIVE A SONOGRAM PRIOR TO RECEIVING AN ABORTION.

(4)  I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE THE OPTION TO VIEW THE SONOGRAM IMAGES.

(5)  I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE THE OPTION TO HEAR THE HEARTBEAT.

(6)  I UNDERSTAND THAT I AM REQUIRED BY LAW TO HEAR AN EXPLANATION OF THE SONOGRAM IMAGES UNLESS I CERTIFY IN WRITING TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

\_\_\_ I AM PREGNANT AS A RESULT OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT, INCEST, OR OTHER VIOLATION OF THE TEXAS PENAL CODE THAT HAS BEEN REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES OR THAT HAS NOT BEEN REPORTED BECAUSE I REASONABLY BELIEVE THAT DOING SO WOULD PUT ME AT RISK OF RETALIATION RESULTING IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.

\_\_\_ I AM A MINOR AND OBTAINING AN ABORTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH JUDICIAL BYPASS PROCEDURES UNDER CHAPTER 33, TEXAS FAMILY CODE.

\_\_\_ MY FETUS HAS AN IRREVERSIBLE MEDICAL CONDITION OR ABNORMALITY, AS IDENTIFIED BY RELIABLE DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTED IN MY MEDICAL FILE.

(7)  I UNDERSTAND THAT A PERSON VIOLATES THE TEXAS PENAL CODE BY CAUSING OR THREATENING BODILY INJURY TO A PREGNANT WOMAN TO FORCE THE WOMAN TO HAVE AN ABORTION AND THAT I HAVE A RIGHT TO CONTACT ANY LOCAL OR STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO RECEIVE PROTECTION FROM ANY ACTUAL OR THREATENED PHYSICAL ABUSE OR VIOLENCE, WHICH IS CONDUCT CLASSIFIED AS AN ASSAULT UNDER THE TEXAS PENAL CODE.

(8) [~~(7)~~]  I AM MAKING THIS ELECTION OF MY OWN FREE WILL AND WITHOUT COERCION.

(9) [~~(8)~~]  FOR A WOMAN WHO LIVES 100 MILES OR MORE FROM THE NEAREST ABORTION PROVIDER THAT IS A FACILITY LICENSED UNDER CHAPTER 245 OR A FACILITY THAT PERFORMS MORE THAN 50 ABORTIONS IN ANY 12-MONTH PERIOD ONLY:

I CERTIFY THAT, BECAUSE I CURRENTLY LIVE 100 MILES OR MORE FROM THE NEAREST ABORTION PROVIDER THAT IS A FACILITY LICENSED UNDER CHAPTER 245 OR A FACILITY THAT PERFORMS MORE THAN 50 ABORTIONS IN ANY 12-MONTH PERIOD, I WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT TO WAIT 24 HOURS AFTER THE SONOGRAM IS PERFORMED BEFORE RECEIVING THE ABORTION PROCEDURE. MY PLACE OF RESIDENCE IS:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE DATE";

(6)  before the abortion is performed, the physician who is to perform the abortion receives a copy of the signed, written certification required by Subdivision (5); and

(7)  the pregnant woman is provided the name of each person who provides or explains the information required under this subsection.

SECTION 2.  Sections 171.014(a) and (f), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(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 (D); and

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

(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 (D), and Section 171.016, and in maintaining the department's Internet website.

SECTION 3.  (a) By not later than December 1, 2021, the Health and Human Services Commission shall:

(1)  revise the informational materials the commission is required to publish under Section 171.014, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act; and

(2)  make the materials available for distribution.

(b)  The changes in law made by this Act apply only to the information a physician is required to provide under Section 171.012, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act, on or after January 1, 2022.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.