By:  Paxton, et al. S.B. No. 9

(In the Senate - Filed March 1, 2021; March 3, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on State Affairs; March 18, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 2; March 18, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Hughes          X

Birdwell        X

Campbell        X

Hall            X

Lucio           X

Nelson          X

Powell              X

Schwertner      X

Zaffirini           X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 9 By:  Nelson

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to prohibition of abortion; providing a civil penalty; creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1.  This Act may be cited as the Human Life Protection Act of 2021.

SECTION 2.  Subtitle H, Title 2, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 170A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 170A. PERFORMANCE OF ABORTION

Sec. 170A.001.  DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1)  "Abortion" has the meaning assigned by Section 245.002.

(2)  "Fertilization" means the point in time when a male human sperm penetrates the zona pellucida of a female human ovum.

(3)  "Pregnant" means the female human reproductive condition of having a living unborn child within the female's body during the entire embryonic and fetal stages of the unborn child's development from fertilization until birth.

(4)  "Reasonable medical judgment" means a medical judgment made by a reasonably prudent physician, knowledgeable about a case and the treatment possibilities for the medical conditions involved.

(5)  "Unborn child" means an individual living member of the homo sapiens species from fertilization until birth, including the entire embryonic and fetal stages of development.

Sec. 170A.002.  PROHIBITED ABORTION; EXCEPTIONS. (a) A person may not knowingly perform, induce, or attempt an abortion.

(b)  The prohibition under Subsection (a) does not apply if:

(1)  the person performing, inducing, or attempting the abortion is a licensed physician;

(2)  in the exercise of reasonable medical judgment, the pregnant female on whom the abortion is performed, induced, or attempted has a life-threatening physical condition aggravated by, caused by, or arising from a pregnancy that places the female at risk of death or poses a serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function unless the abortion is performed or induced; and

(3)  the person performs, induces, or attempts the abortion in a manner that, in the exercise of reasonable medical judgment, provides the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive unless, in the reasonable medical judgment, that manner would create:

(A)  a greater risk of the pregnant female's death; or

(B)  a serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant female.

(c)  A physician may not take an action authorized under Subsection (b) if, at the time the abortion was performed, induced, or attempted, the person knew the risk of death or a substantial impairment of a major bodily function described by Subsection (b)(2) arose from a claim or diagnosis that the female would engage in conduct that might result in the female's death or in substantial impairment of a major bodily function.

(d)  Medical treatment provided to the pregnant female by a licensed physician that results in the accidental or unintentional injury or death of the unborn child does not constitute a violation of this section.

Sec. 170A.003.  CONSTRUCTION OF CHAPTER. This chapter may not be construed to authorize the imposition of criminal, civil, or administrative liability or penalties on a pregnant female on whom an abortion is performed, induced, or attempted.

Sec. 170A.004.  CRIMINAL OFFENSE. (a)  A person who violates Section 170A.002 commits an offense.

(b)  An offense under this section is a felony of the second degree, except that the offense is a felony of the first degree if an unborn child dies as a result of the offense.

Sec. 170A.005.  CIVIL PENALTY. A person who violates Section 170A.002 is subject to a civil penalty of not less than $100,000 for each violation. The attorney general shall file an action to recover a civil penalty assessed under this section and may recover attorney's fees and costs incurred in bringing the action.

Sec. 170A.006.  CIVIL REMEDIES UNAFFECTED. The fact that conduct is subject to a civil or criminal penalty under this chapter does not abolish or impair any remedy for the conduct that is available in a civil suit.

Sec. 170A.007.  DISCIPLINARY ACTION. In addition to any other penalty that may be imposed under this chapter, the appropriate licensing authority shall revoke the license, permit, registration, certificate, or other authority of a physician or other health care professional who performs, induces, or attempts an abortion in violation of Section 170A.002.

SECTION 3.  Section 2 of this Act takes effect, to the extent permitted, on the 30th day after:

(1)  the issuance of a United States Supreme Court judgment in a decision overruling, wholly or partly, *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), as modified by *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992), thereby allowing the states of the United States to prohibit abortion;

(2)  the issuance of any other United States Supreme Court judgment in a decision that recognizes, wholly or partly, the authority of the states to prohibit abortion; or

(3)  adoption of an amendment to the United States Constitution that, wholly or partly, restores to the states the authority to prohibit abortion.

SECTION 4.  The provisions of this Act are hereby declared severable, and if any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Act.

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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