

Regular Session, 2011

ACT No. 411

HOUSE BILL NO. 636 (Substitute for House Bill No. 586 by Representative Hoffmann)

BY REPRESENTATIVES HOFFMANN, ANDERS, ARNOLD, AUSTIN BADON, BOBBY BADON, BALDONE, BARRAS, BARROW, BILLIOT, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, BURRELL, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANDLER, CHANEY, CONNICK, CROMER, DANAHAY, DOVE, DOWNS, EDWARDS, ELLINGTON, FANNIN, GEYMAN, GISCLAIR, GREENE, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARDY, HAZEL, HENDERSON, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HINES, HONORE, HOWARD, HUTTER, JOHNSON, SAM JONES, KATZ, KLECKLEY, LABRUZZO, LAMBERT, LANDRY, LEBAS, LIGI, LITTLE, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MCVEA, MONICA, NOWLIN, PEARSON, PONTI, POPE, PUGH, RICHARD, RICHARDSON, RITCHIE, ROBIDEAUX, ROY, SCHRODER, SEABAUGH, SMILEY, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, TALBOT, TEMPLET, THIBAUT, THIERRY, WHITE, WILLIAMS, AND WILLMOTT AND SENATORS AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, CHEEK, CROWE, DONAHUE, ERDEY, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MICHOT, MILLS, MORRISH, MOUNT, NEVERS, PERRY, QUINN, RISER, SHAW, SMITH, THOMPSON, AND WALSWORTH

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1299.35.1(introductory paragraph) and (1)(b), 1299.35.2(A),
3 1299.35.6, and 1299.35.19 and to enact R.S. 40:1299.35.1(11) and 1299.35.5.1,
4 relative to abortion; to require certain signage in abortion facilities; to provide for
5 certain requirements of the Department of Health and Hospitals relative to abortion;
6 to provide for voluntary and informed consent criteria; to provide for delivery of
7 certain information under the Woman's Right to Know law; to provide relative to
8 conscience in health care protection, including provisions relative to living human
9 embryos; to provide for penalties; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 40:1299.35.1(introductory paragraph) and(1)(b), 1299.35.2(A),
12 1299.35.6, and 1299.35.19 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:1299.35.1(11) and
13 1299.35.5.1 are hereby enacted to read as follows:

14 §1299.35.1. Definitions

15 As used in R.S. 40:1299.35.0 through ~~1299.35.18~~ 1299.35.19, the following
16 words have the following meanings:

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

7 * * *

8 (b) Remove a dead unborn child ~~caused by~~ or induce delivery of the uterine
 9 contents in case of a positive diagnosis, certified in writing in the woman's medical
 10 record along with the results of an obstetric ultrasound test, that the pregnancy has
 11 ended or is in the unavoidable and untreatable process of ending due to spontaneous
 12 miscarriage, also known in medical terminology as spontaneous abortion, missed
 13 abortion, ~~or~~ inevitable abortion, incomplete abortion, or septic abortion.

14 * * *

15 (11) "Department" means the Department of Health and Hospitals.

16 * * *

17 §1299.35.2. Abortion by physician; determination of viability; ultrasound test
 18 required; exceptions; penalties

19 A. Physician requirement. No person shall perform or induce an abortion
 20 unless that person is a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of
 21 Louisiana. Any outpatient abortion facility that knowingly employs, contracts with,
 22 or provides any valuable consideration for the performance of an abortion to any
 23 person who is not a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana,
 24 is subject to having its license denied, non-renewed, or revoked by the Department
 25 of Health and Hospitals in accord with R.S. 40:2175.6.

26 * * *

27 §1299.35.5.1. Prevention of forced abortion; signage in abortion facilities

28 A. This Section shall be known and may be cited as the "Forced Abortion
 29 Prevention Sign Act".

1 B. Any licensed Outpatient Abortion Facility as defined by R.S. 40:2175.3
 2 shall conspicuously post a sign in a location defined in Subsection D of this Section
 3 which is clearly visible to patients, and which features the text contained in
 4 Paragraph (1) of this Subsection and the information contained in Paragraph (2) of
 5 this Subsection.

6 (1) The sign shall feature the following text:

7 "Notice: Women's Rights and Pregnancy Resources

8 You can't be forced.

9 * It is unlawful for anyone to make you have an abortion against your will,
 10 even if you are a minor.

11 You and the father.

12 * The father of your child must provide support of the child, even if he has
 13 offered to pay for an abortion.

14 You and adoption.

15 * The law allows adoptive parents to pay costs of prenatal care, childbirth
 16 and newborn care.

17 You are not alone.

18 * Many agencies are willing to help you to carry your child to term, and to
 19 assist after your child's birth."

20 (2) The sign shall feature the web address of the pregnancy resources
 21 website maintained by the department pursuant to R.S. 40:1299.35.6, which shall be
 22 shown on the sign in a large, bold font designed to be clearly visible to patients,
 23 along with any additional information which is deemed necessary by the department
 24 and is in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:1299.35.6.

25 C. The department shall cause the sign provided for in this Section to be
 26 designed and produced. All signs produced shall incorporate color graphics and
 27 shall be printed on durable signage material measuring sixteen inches by twenty
 28 inches with lettering presented in a size and style of font designed to be clearly
 29 visible to the patient.

1 D. The sign provided for in this Section shall be conspicuously posted in
 2 each patient admission area, waiting room, and patient consultation room used by
 3 patients on whom abortions are performed, induced, prescribed for, or who are
 4 provided with the means for an abortion.

5 * * *

6 §1299.35.6. Woman's Right To Know

7 A. Legislative findings and purposes. The Legislature of Louisiana finds
 8 that:

9 (1) Act No. 435 of the 1978 Regular Session of the Legislature required the
 10 obtaining of the informed consent of a pregnant woman to the performance of an
 11 abortion. This law was declared unconstitutional in the cases of Margaret S. v.
 12 Edwards, and in Margaret S. v. Treen.

13 (2) By Act No. 435 of the 1978 Regular Session of the Legislature (R.S.
 14 40:1299.35.7) a twenty-four-hour waiting period was required between the signing
 15 of an informed consent and the performance of an abortion. This law was repealed
 16 by Act No. 418 of the 1980 Regular Session of the Legislature because of the
 17 decision of the federal court in Margaret S. v. Edwards.

18 (3) Subsequent to the above-referenced court decisions and legislative
 19 enactments, the United States Supreme Court has rendered a decision in the case of
 20 Planned Parenthood of Pennsylvania v. Casey, which upheld the constitutionality of
 21 the Pennsylvania law which required informed consent, parental consent, and a
 22 twenty-four-hour waiting period prior to an abortion, and which decision has
 23 therefore impliedly overruled the decisions in the Margaret S. cases.

24 (4) The judicial obstacles to such legislation now having been removed by
 25 virtue of the Casey decision, the legislature finds that it is in the public interest and
 26 in furtherance of the general health and welfare of the citizens of this state to reenact
 27 provisions of law similar to those heretofore either declared unconstitutional or
 28 repealed for the following reasons:

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 (a) It is essential to the psychological and physical well-being of a woman
2 considering an abortion that she receive complete and accurate information ~~on~~
3 regarding her alternatives.

4 (b) The knowledgable exercise of a woman's decision to have an abortion
5 depends on the extent to which the woman receives sufficient information to make
6 an informed choice between two alternatives, giving birth or having an abortion.

7 (c) The vast majority of all abortions are performed in clinics devoted solely
8 to providing abortions and family planning services. Most women who seek
9 abortions at these facilities do not have any relationship with the physician who
10 performs the abortion, before or after the procedure. They do not return to the
11 facility for postsurgical care. In most instances, the woman's only actual contact
12 with the physician occurs simultaneously with the abortion procedure, with little
13 opportunity to receive counseling concerning her decision.

14 (d) The decision to abort "is an important, and often a stressful one, and it
15 is desirable and imperative that it be made with full knowledge of its nature and
16 consequences", Planned Parenthood v. Danforth.

17 (e) "The medical, emotional, and psychological consequences of an abortion
18 are serious and can be lasting...", H. L. v. Matheson.

19 (f) Abortion facilities or providers offer only limited and/or impersonal
20 counseling opportunities.

21 (g) Many abortion facilities or providers hire untrained and unprofessional
22 "counselors" whose primary goal is to sell abortion services.

23 (5) Based on the above findings, it is the purpose of this Act to:

24 (a) Ensure that every woman considering an abortion receive complete
25 information on her alternatives and that every woman submitting to an abortion do
26 so only after giving her voluntary and informed consent to the abortion procedure.

27 (b) Protect unborn children from a woman's uninformed decision to have an
28 abortion.

1 (c) Reduce "the risk that a woman may elect an abortion only to discover
 2 later, with devastating psychological consequences, that her decision was not fully
 3 informed", Planned Parenthood v. Casey.

4 (d) Ensure that every woman considering an abortion receive complete
 5 information regarding the availability of anesthesia or analgesics that would
 6 eliminate or alleviate organic pain to the unborn child that could be caused by the
 7 particular method of abortion to be employed.

8 B. Informed consent; requirements. After a woman is determined to be
 9 pregnant, no abortion shall be performed or induced without the voluntary and
 10 informed consent of the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed or
 11 induced. Except in the case of a medical emergency, consent to an abortion is
 12 voluntary and informed if and only if:

13 ~~(1) the~~ The provisions of R.S. 40:1299.35.2 requiring an ultrasound test and
 14 determination of viability are met, ~~and,~~

15 (2) The information required by this Section to be communicated orally and
 16 in person to the woman is provided to her individually and in a private room to
 17 protect her privacy, for the purpose of ensuring that the information focuses on her
 18 individual circumstances and that she has an adequate opportunity to ask questions.

19 ~~(+)~~ (3) Oral information from the physician. At least twenty-four hours
 20 before the abortion, the physician who is to perform the abortion or the referring
 21 physician has informed the woman, orally and in person, of:

22 (a) The name of the physician who meets the requirements of R.S.
 23 46:1299.35.2(A) and who will perform the abortion.

24 (b) A description of the proposed abortion method and of those risks
 25 (including risks to the woman's reproductive health) and alternatives to the abortion
 26 that a reasonable patient would consider material to the decision of whether or not
 27 to undergo the abortion.

28 (c) The probable gestational age of the unborn child at the time the abortion
 29 is to be performed; and, if the unborn child is viable or has reached the gestational

1 age of twenty-four weeks and the abortion may be otherwise lawfully performed
 2 under existing law, that:

3 (i) The unborn child may be able to survive outside the womb.

4 (ii) The woman has the right to request the physician to use the method of
 5 abortion that is most likely to preserve the life of the unborn child.

6 (iii) If the unborn child is born alive, that attending physicians have the legal
 7 obligation to take all reasonable steps necessary to maintain the life and health of the
 8 child.

9 (d) The probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the unborn
 10 child at the time the abortion is to be performed.

11 (e) The medical risks associated with carrying her child to term.

12 (f) Any need for anti-Rh immune globulin therapy, if she is Rh negative, the
 13 likely consequences of refusing such therapy, and a good faith estimate of the cost
 14 of the therapy.

15 (g) The availability of anesthesia or analgesics to alleviate or eliminate
 16 organic pain to the unborn child that could be caused by the method of abortion to
 17 be employed.

18 (h) The requirement that at least two hours prior to the woman having any
 19 part of an abortion performed or induced, the physician, referring physician, or
 20 qualified person working in conjunction with either physician must perform an
 21 obstetric ultrasound under the provisions of R.S. 40:1299.35.2 for the purpose of
 22 preserving the woman's health and determining the viability of the unborn child, and
 23 that neither the physician nor the woman shall be penalized should the woman
 24 choose not to view the obstetric ultrasound images or not to accept the photographic
 25 print ~~that shall be provided~~ offered to her in a sealed envelope.

26 (i) The inclusion in her printed materials of a comprehensive list, compiled
 27 by the ~~Department of Health and Hospitals~~ department, of facilities that offer
 28 obstetric ultrasounds free of charge, ~~along with an oral explanation of the provision~~
 29 ~~that shall be included on the department's list that if the woman voluntarily chooses~~
 30 ~~to obtain free ultrasound services, that ultrasound would likely be in addition to the~~

1 ~~ultrasound required by law for purposes of determining viability and preserving the~~
 2 ~~woman's health, unless the free ultrasound is performed by the physician performing~~
 3 ~~the abortion, the referring physician, or a qualified person working in conjunction~~
 4 ~~with either physician. The list shall be arranged geographically and shall include the~~
 5 ~~name, address, hours of operation, and telephone number of each entity.~~

6 ~~(2)(a)~~ (4) Oral information from a physician or qualified person.

7 (a) In the initial contact with an abortion provider by any person seeking to
 8 schedule an abortion for a minor or adult woman or for herself, whether such initial
 9 contact is by telephone, by Internet communication, in person, or by any other
 10 means, the physician who is to perform the abortion or any person acting on behalf
 11 of the physician informs the person of the Internet address of the department's
 12 abortion alternatives and informed consent website provided for in this Section.

13 (b) At least twenty-four hours before ~~the~~ a scheduled abortion, the physician
 14 who is to perform the abortion, the referring physician, or a qualified person has
 15 informed the woman, orally and in person, that:

16 (i) Medical assistance benefits may be available for prenatal care, childbirth,
 17 and neonatal care, and that more detailed information on the availability of such
 18 assistance is contained on the department's website and in the printed materials
 19 which shall be given to her ~~and described~~ as provided in this Section.

20 (ii) The department's website and printed materials describe the unborn child
 21 and list agencies which offer alternatives to abortion.

22 (iii) The father of the unborn child is liable to assist in the support of her
 23 child, even in instances where he has offered to pay for the abortion. In the case of
 24 rape, this information may be omitted.

25 (iv) She is free to withhold or withdraw her consent to the abortion at any
 26 time before or during the abortion without affecting her right to future care or
 27 treatment and without the loss of any state or federally funded benefits to which she
 28 might otherwise be entitled.

1 ~~(b)~~ (c) For purposes of this Paragraph, "qualified person" shall mean an
 2 agent of the physician who is a psychologist, licensed social worker, licensed
 3 professional counselor, registered nurse, or physician.

4 ~~(3) The information required by this Section is provided to the woman~~
 5 ~~individually and in a private room to protect her privacy and maintain the~~
 6 ~~confidentiality of her decision, to ensure that the information focuses on her~~
 7 ~~individual circumstances, and that she has an adequate opportunity to ask questions.~~

8 ~~(4)~~ (5) Provision of printed materials. At least twenty-four hours before the
 9 abortion, the woman is given a copy of the printed materials described in this Section
 10 by the physician who is to perform the abortion, the referring physician, or a
 11 qualified person as defined in Subparagraph ~~(2)(b)~~ (4)(c) of this Subsection. If the
 12 woman is unable to read the materials, they shall be read to her. If the woman asks
 13 questions concerning any of the information or materials, answers shall be provided
 14 to her in her own language. ~~If an interpreter is necessary, the cost of such interpreter~~
 15 ~~shall be borne by the state of Louisiana.~~

16 ~~(5)~~ (6) Certification and reporting. The woman certifies in writing on a form
 17 provided by the ~~Department of Health and Hospitals~~ department, prior to the
 18 abortion, that the information and materials required to be provided under this
 19 Section have been provided at least twenty-four hours prior to the abortion. All
 20 physicians who perform abortions shall report the total number of certifications
 21 received monthly to the department. The department shall make the number of
 22 certifications received available to the public on an annual basis.

23 ~~(6)~~ (7) Prior to the performance of the abortion, the physician who is to
 24 perform the abortion or his agent receives a copy of the written certification required
 25 by this Section.

26 ~~(7)~~ (8) The woman is not required to pay any amount for the abortion
 27 procedures until the twenty-four-hour period has expired.

28 C.~~(1)~~ Publication of materials abortion alternatives and informed consent
 29 website.

1 ~~(1) The Department of Health and Hospitals~~ department shall cause to be
 2 published in English, within ~~ninety~~ one hundred twenty days after ~~June 20, 1995~~
 3 enactment of this Act, and shall update on an annual basis, or as needed, the
 4 following easily comprehensible ~~printed materials~~: information on a stable Internet
 5 website that shall be developed and maintained by the department

6 ~~(a) Geographically indexed materials designed to inform the public of the~~
 7 ~~inform the woman of~~ public and private agencies and services available to assist a
 8 woman through pregnancy, upon childbirth, and while her child is dependent,
 9 including but not limited to ~~adoption agencies~~. ~~The materials shall include a~~
 10 ~~comprehensive list of the agencies, a description of the services they offer, and the~~
 11 ~~telephone number and addresses of the agencies, and inform the woman about~~
 12 ~~available~~ the following information that shall indicate the agency's or service's
 13 physical address, telephone number, and web address if available:

14 ~~(a)~~ Information about public and private agencies which provide medical
 15 assistance benefits that may be available for prenatal care, childbirth, and neonatal
 16 care, and easily comprehensible information on how to apply for such benefits.

17 ~~(b)~~ Public and private pregnancy resource centers that provide information
 18 and services such as free abortion alternatives counseling, prenatal care, pantry
 19 services and parenting skills, and that do not refer, counsel, perform, induce,
 20 prescribe, or provide any means for abortion.

21 ~~(c) and~~ Information about the support obligations of the father of a child who
 22 is born alive and information about the judicial enforcement of child support.

23 ~~(d)~~ Information on a separate and featured subpage of the department's
 24 website that lists facilities that provide free obstetric ultrasound services under the
 25 provisions of R.S. 40:1299.35.2 and this Section.

26 ~~(e)~~ Information on public and private adoption agencies.

27 ~~(f)~~ Information on the anatomical and physiological characteristics of the
 28 unborn child pursuant to the provisions of this Section, including color photographs
 29 or images consistent with the most current technology depicting the unborn child at
 30 two-week gestational increments or closer.

1 (g) Information describing the various methods of abortion procedures, the
2 short-term and long-term medical risks associated with abortion, and the medical
3 risks associated with carrying a child to term.

4 (h) Information on the unborn child's ability to experience pain.

5 (i) Video clips that convey objective and medically accurate information
6 about abortion procedures, abortion risks, abortion alternative resources, and
7 medically accurate information on the development of an unborn child. Video clips
8 may be produced with the in-house resources of the department, or acquired for no
9 cost to the state from third parties if the video is approved by the secretary as
10 providing objective and medically accurate information.

11 (j) Information that helps women identify unlawful abortion coercion,
12 including but not limited to resources or hotlines that a minor or adult woman may
13 call if she is experiencing actual or threatened physical abuse or violence, loss of
14 employment or employment privileges, loss of eligible social assistance, loss of
15 educational scholarship, or loss of legally protected financial support or housing.

16 (k) Information to assist minors who are considering abortion, including
17 parental consent information, and resources to help minors seek the protection of
18 state child welfare services, temporary guardianship, or law enforcement authorities
19 to report abuse as defined in Article 603 of the Children's Code. The information
20 designed to assist minors shall also include a link to pregnancy resource centers as
21 defined in Subparagraph (1)(b) of this Subsection.

22 (2) The home page of the department's main website shall feature a button
23 or other link which accesses the department's abortion alternatives and informed
24 consent website, and the home page of such website shall feature user-friendly
25 buttons that link to the information required in this Section. The department shall
26 ensure that the ~~materials~~ resources described in this Section are comprehensive and
27 user-friendly, and that they do not directly or indirectly promote, exclude, or
28 discourage the use of any agency or service described in this Section.

29 (3) No information regarding who uses the website shall be collected or
30 maintained. The department shall monitor the website to prevent and correct

1 tampering and shall immediately notify abortion providers of any change of the
2 website address.

3 (4) The search capabilities on the department's main website shall ensure that
4 entering the term "abortion" yields the website and information required by this
5 Section, regardless of how the information is labeled.

6 (5) The information on the department's abortion alternatives and informed
7 consent website shall be printable. The printed materials required in Subsection D
8 of this Section shall be available to download from the website in a portable
9 document format without cost. The download of such information shall not be
10 deemed to satisfy the requirements of Subsection B of this Section.

11 (6) The department's abortion alternatives and informed consent website
12 shall be accessible to the public without requiring registration or use of a user name,
13 a password, or any user identification.

14 (7) The department's abortion alternatives and informed consent website
15 shall have the capability of detecting when it is being accessed by a mobile device
16 and shall have the capability of converting to a platform designed to be easily
17 viewable on mobile devices.

18 (8) If an abortion provider has a website, the abortion provider's Internet
19 website home page shall include a prominent link to the department's abortion
20 alternatives and informed consent website.

21 D. Publication of printed materials. The department shall cause to be
22 published, within one hundred twenty days after enactment of this Act and shall
23 update on an annual basis or as needed, the following printed materials:

24 (1) The signs provided for in the Forced Abortion Prevention Sign Act, R.S.
25 40:1299.35.5.1.

26 (2) A list arranged geographically, including the name, address, hours of
27 operation, website address if available, and telephone number of each entity which
28 offers obstetric ultrasounds free of charge. The list shall not include any facility that
29 counsels, refers, performs, induces, prescribes, or provides any means for abortion.

1 (3) A printed booklet that features the web address of the department's
2 dedicated pregnancy resource website printed in a bold large typeface. The booklet
3 shall contain an outline of the various topics on the website as provided in
4 Subsection C of this Section along with an explanation that more detailed
5 information can be found at the department's website. ~~The materials shall also~~
6 ~~contain a separate printed listing of facilities that provide obstetric ultrasound~~
7 ~~services free of charge, as described in Subparagraph (B)(1)(i) of this Section. All~~
8 ~~materials shall include a website address where the required materials can be~~
9 ~~accessed on the Internet. Such website shall be maintained by the Department of~~
10 ~~Health and Hospitals. The printed booklet materials shall state that it is unlawful for~~
11 any individual to coerce a minor or adult woman to undergo an abortion, that any
12 physician who performs an abortion upon a woman without her informed consent
13 may be liable to her for damages in a civil action at law, and that the law permits
14 adoptive parents to pay costs of prenatal care, childbirth, and neonatal care.

15 (a) The department's website and printed booklet materials shall include the
16 following statements:

17 (i) "There are many public and private agencies willing and able to help you
18 to carry your child to term, and to assist you and your child after your child is born,
19 whether you choose to keep your child or to place her or him for adoption. The state
20 of Louisiana strongly urges you to consult an independent physician about the risks
21 of abortion to your physical and psychological well-being and to contact them the
22 resources provided on our website before making a final decision about abortion.
23 The law requires that ~~your physician or his agent~~ the abortion provider give you the
24 opportunity to ~~call~~ contact agencies like these before you undergo an abortion."

25 (ii) "By twenty weeks gestation, the unborn child has the physical structures
26 necessary to experience pain. There is evidence that by twenty weeks gestation
27 unborn children seek to evade certain stimuli in a manner which in an infant or an
28 adult would be interpreted to be a response to pain. Anesthesia is routinely
29 administered to unborn children who are twenty weeks gestational age or older who
30 undergo prenatal surgery."

1 (b) The printed booklet shall include ~~Materials~~ materials that inform the
 2 pregnant woman of the probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the
 3 unborn child at a minimum of two-week gestational increments from fertilization to
 4 full term, including color ~~pictures or drawings representing~~ photographs or medical
 5 images consistent with the most current technology depicting the development of
 6 unborn children ~~at two-week gestational increments~~, and any relevant information
 7 on the possibility of the unborn child's survival; provided that any such color ~~pictures~~
 8 ~~or drawings~~ photographs or images shall contain the dimensions of the unborn child
 9 and shall be ~~realistic~~ medically accurate. The materials shall be objective,
 10 nonjudgmental, and designed to convey only accurate scientific information about
 11 the unborn child at the various gestational ages. The material shall also contain
 12 objective information describing the methods of abortion procedures ~~commonly~~
 13 ~~employed~~, the short-term and long-term medical risks ~~commonly~~ associated with
 14 ~~each such procedure~~ abortion as supported by peer-reviewed medical journals, and
 15 the medical risks ~~commonly~~ associated with carrying a child to term.

16 (4) A certification form to be used by physicians or their agents as provided
 17 in ~~Paragraph B(5)~~ of this Section, which will list all the items of information which
 18 are to be given to women by physicians or their agents as required by this Section.

19 (2) ~~E.~~ The materials provided for in Subsection D of this Section shall be
 20 printed in a typeface large enough to be clearly legible.

21 (3) ~~The materials required under this Section~~ and shall be available at no cost
 22 from the department upon request and in appropriate number to any person, facility,
 23 or hospital. The department's abortion alternatives and informed consent website
 24 shall contain information on ordering printed materials.

25 (4) The department shall promulgate rules and regulations relative to the
 26 ~~appropriate number and methods of reporting at no cost~~ methods of distribution of
 27 printed materials.

28 ~~D.~~ F. Medical emergency. Where a medical emergency compels the
 29 performance of an abortion, the physician shall orally inform the woman, before the
 30 abortion, if possible, of the medical indications supporting his judgment that an

1 abortion is necessary to avert her death or to avert substantial and irreversible
 2 impairment of a major bodily function.

3 E. G. Reporting requirements. Any physician who has provided the
 4 information and materials to any woman in accordance with the requirements of this
 5 Section shall provide to the department:

6 (1) With respect to a woman upon whom an abortion is performed, all
 7 information as required by R.S. 40:1299.35.10 as well as the date upon which the
 8 information and materials required to be provided under this Section were provided,
 9 as well as an executed copy of the certification form required by ~~Paragraph B(5) of~~
 10 this Section.

11 (2) With respect to any woman to whom the printed and oral information and
 12 materials have been provided in accordance with this Section, but upon whom the
 13 physician has not performed an abortion, the name and address of the facility where
 14 the required information was provided and ~~the information as required by R.S.~~
 15 ~~40:1299.35.10(A)(1) and (4) through (18) inclusive, and if executed by the woman,~~
 16 a copy of the certification form required by ~~Paragraph B(5) of~~ this Section.

17 F. H. Criminal penalties.

18 (1) Any person who intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly fails to comply
 19 with all the requirements of this Section shall be subject to the penalties provided in
 20 ~~R.S. 40:1299.35.18~~ R.S. 40:1299.35.19.

21 (2) No physician shall be guilty of violating this Section if he or she can
 22 demonstrate, by a preponderance of the evidence, that he or she reasonably believed
 23 that furnishing the required information would have resulted in a severely adverse
 24 effect on the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman, provided that the
 25 pregnancy is terminated in a licensed hospital and that it is necessary, as certified
 26 with supporting medical reasons by the physician in the woman's medical record, to
 27 avert the woman's death or avoid serious risk of substantial and irreversible
 28 impairment of a major bodily function, or to induce the premature delivery of an
 29 unborn child who is eighteen weeks gestational age or greater when the physician
 30 has made a good faith medical judgment that the unborn child's medical condition

1 is such that there is no realistic possibility of maintaining the life of the unborn child
 2 outside the womb even if the unborn child were to be delivered after a full term
 3 pregnancy.

4 ~~G. Civil penalties. In addition to whatever remedies are otherwise available~~
 5 ~~under the law of this state, failure to comply with the requirements of this Section~~
 6 ~~shall:~~

7 ~~(1) Provide a basis for a civil malpractice action. Any intentional violation~~
 8 ~~of this Section shall be admissible in a civil suit as prima facie evidence of a failure~~
 9 ~~to obtain an informed consent. When requested, the court shall allow a woman to~~
 10 ~~proceed using solely her initials or a pseudonym and may close any proceedings in~~
 11 ~~the case and enter other protective orders to preserve the privacy of the woman upon~~
 12 ~~whom the abortion was performed.~~

13 ~~(2) Provide a basis for professional disciplinary action under R.S. 37:1261~~
 14 ~~et seq.~~

15 ~~(3) Provide a basis for recovery for the woman for the death of her unborn~~
 16 ~~child under Louisiana Civil Code Article 2315.2, whether or not the unborn child~~
 17 ~~was viable at the time the abortion was performed, or was born alive.~~

18 ~~H. I. Limitation on civil liability. Any physician who complies with the~~
 19 ~~provisions of this Section may not be held civilly liable to his patient for failure to~~
 20 ~~obtain informed consent to the abortion under this Section. Any and all other rights~~
 21 ~~and remedies are preserved to the patient.~~

22 ~~I. Severability. The provisions of the Act which originated as House Bill~~
 23 ~~No. 2246 of the 1995 Regular Session of the Legislature are declared to be severable,~~
 24 ~~and if any provision, word, phrase, or clause of the Act or the application thereof to~~
 25 ~~any person shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the~~
 26 ~~remaining portions of the Act.~~

27 J. Construction.

28 (1) Nothing in this Section shall be construed as creating or recognizing a
 29 right to abortion.

1 which can be given effect without the invalid provision, item, or application and to this end
2 the provisions of this Act are hereby declared severable.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____