

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 1262 (Substitute for House Bill No. 727 by Representative Ivey)

BY REPRESENTATIVES IVEY, BARROW, BURFORD, COX, HARRIS, HENSGENS, HILL, HOFFMANN, KATRINA JACKSON, LEBAS, JAY MORRIS, POPE, SIMON, STOKES, WHITNEY, PATRICK WILLIAMS, AND WILLMOTT

ABORTION: Provides relative to information to be conveyed to a woman prior to abortion

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19

AN ACT

To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1299.35.6(B)(5) and to enact R.S. 40:1299.35.5.2, 1299.35.8(A)(6) and (7), and 1299.35.10(A)(27) and (28), relative to consent to abortion; to require provision of certain materials to women prior to abortion and to provide for the content of such materials; to provide for requirements of the Department of Health and Hospitals relative to development and publication of printed and Internet-based materials concerning abortion; to provide for duties of physicians who perform abortions; to provide for items to be retained in the medical record of each pregnant woman upon whom an abortion is performed or induced; to provide for the content of reports to the Department of Health and Hospitals by physicians concerning abortions performed or induced; to provide for a task force on informational materials to be delivered to women prior to abortion; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 40:1299.35.6(B)(5) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 40:1299.35.5.2, 1299.35.8(A)(6) and (7), and 1299.35.10(A)(27) and (28) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§1299.35.6. Woman's Right To Know

\* \* \*

1           B. Informed consent; requirements. After a woman is determined to be  
2 pregnant, no abortion shall be performed or induced without the voluntary and  
3 informed consent of the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed or  
4 induced. Except in the case of a medical emergency, consent to an abortion is  
5 voluntary and informed if and only if:

6   \*       \*       \*

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

14           (b) Each copy of a printed item that the department creates for the purpose  
15 of distribution to a woman considering abortion, as required by this Section, shall be  
16 marked with a unique identifier printed on three segments that are perforated and can  
17 be torn easily from the printed item.

18           (c) When the physician or other qualified person conveys the pamphlet or  
19 other printed item to a woman or minor female considering an abortion as required  
20 in this Section, he shall remove two segments bearing the unique identifier and  
21 dispense with those segments as follows:

22           (i) He shall place one segment bearing the unique identifier in the medical  
23 record of the woman along with all other documentation required by R.S.  
24 40:1299.35.8.

25           (ii) He shall submit one segment bearing the unique identifier to the  
26 department within thirty days after the date of the abortion along with all other  
27 documentation required by R.S. 40:1299.35.10.

28           (d) The department may produce copies of the materials described in this  
29 Section that do not bear unique identifiers, and such materials lacking unique

1 identifiers may be distributed to persons other than women and minor females who  
2 are required to receive the materials by the provisions of this Section, and to have  
3 certification of receipt of the materials included in their medical records in  
4 accordance with R.S. 40:1299.35.8(A). All copies of materials that women and  
5 minor females considering abortion are required to receive shall bear a unique  
6 identifier in accordance with Subparagraph (b) of this Paragraph for the purpose of  
7 facilitating recordation in accordance with Subparagraph (c) of this Paragraph.

8 \* \* \*

9 §1299.35.5.2. Information on psychological impacts, illegal coercion, abuse, and  
10 human trafficking required prior to abortion; task force on information  
11 resources

12 A. The legislature hereby declares that women of this state have a right to  
13 know that undergoing an abortion may have serious psychological impacts, including  
14 severe emotional distress and mental and behavioral health afflictions.

15 B. At least twenty-four hours prior to undergoing an elective abortion as  
16 defined in R.S. 40:1299.35.1, and as a condition for consent to the abortion to be  
17 deemed voluntary and informed, the woman or minor female considering abortion  
18 shall be given a copy of the printed materials described in this Section by the  
19 physician who is to perform the abortion or a qualified person as defined in R.S.  
20 40:1299.35.6(B)(4)(c).

21 C.(1) The physician or qualified person shall provide to the woman or minor  
22 female seeking an abortion the printed materials required by this Section individually  
23 and in a private room for the purpose of ensuring that she has an adequate  
24 opportunity to ask questions and discuss her individual circumstances.

25 (2) The physician or qualified person shall obtain the signature of the woman  
26 or minor female seeking an abortion on a form certifying that the printed materials  
27 were given to the woman or minor female.

28 (3) In the case of a minor female considering an abortion, if a parent  
29 accompanies the minor female to the appointment with the physician or qualified

1 person described in Subsection B of this Section, then the physician or qualified  
2 person shall provide to the parent copies of the materials given to the female in  
3 accordance with Paragraph (1) of this Subsection.

4 (4) The signed certification form provided for in Paragraph (2) of this  
5 Subsection shall be kept within the medical record of the woman or minor female  
6 upon whom the abortion procedure was performed for a period of at least seven  
7 years.

8 D. The department shall create printed materials and printable Internet-based  
9 resources that provide all of the following:

10 (1)(a) Information, telephone numbers, and links to Internet websites of  
11 nonprofit organizations that offer free and confidential access to mental health  
12 professionals, social workers, and other trained counselors who serve women and  
13 minor females who may experience psychological distress or other mental,  
14 emotional, or behavioral health afflictions before an abortion.

15 (b) The department shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that any  
16 mental or behavioral health professional or other counselor to whom a woman or  
17 minor female may be referred through the organizations listed in the materials  
18 developed pursuant to this Paragraph meets all of the following criteria:

19 (i) Provides counseling services that objectively address the mental,  
20 emotional, and behavioral health effects that may occur prior to an abortion.

21 (ii) Is not affiliated with an abortion provider.

22 (2)(a) Information, telephone numbers, and links to Internet websites of  
23 nonprofit organizations that offer free and confidential access to mental health  
24 professionals, social workers, and other trained counselors who serve women and  
25 minor females who may experience psychological distress or other mental,  
26 emotional, or behavioral health afflictions after undergoing an abortion.

27 (b) The department shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that any  
28 mental or behavioral health professional or other counselor to whom a woman or

1 minor female may be referred through the organizations listed in the materials  
2 developed pursuant to this Paragraph meets all of the following criteria:

3 (i) Provides counseling services that objectively address the mental,  
4 emotional, and behavioral health effects that may result from undergoing the  
5 abortion procedure.

6 (ii) Is not affiliated with an abortion provider.

7 (3)(a) Information, telephone numbers, and links to Internet websites of  
8 nonprofit organizations that offer free and confidential access to mental health  
9 professionals, social workers, and other trained counselors who are trained in  
10 counseling women and minor females who experience coercion to obtain an abortion  
11 concerning the psychological impacts or other mental, emotional, or behavioral  
12 health afflictions that may result from experiencing a coerced abortion.

13 (b) The department shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that any  
14 mental or behavioral health professional or other counselor to whom a woman or  
15 minor female may be referred through the organizations listed in the materials  
16 developed pursuant to this Paragraph meets all of the following criteria:

17 (i) Provides counseling services that objectively address the mental,  
18 emotional, and behavioral health effects that may result from experiencing coercion  
19 to obtain an abortion.

20 (ii) Is not affiliated with an abortion provider.

21 (c) The materials developed pursuant to this Paragraph shall clearly indicate  
22 that coerced abortion is defined in Louisiana law, Children's Code Article 603, as a  
23 form of abuse that seriously endangers the physical, mental, and emotional health  
24 and safety of a child.

25 (4)(a) Information, telephone numbers, and links to Internet websites of  
26 nonprofit organizations that offer free and confidential access to mental health  
27 professionals, social workers, and other trained counselors for women and minor  
28 females who are victims of the crime of human trafficking or the crime of trafficking  
29 of children for sexual purposes.

1           **(b) The department shall take such actions as are necessary to ensure that any**  
2           **mental or behavioral health professional or other counselor to whom a woman or**  
3           **minor female may be referred through the organizations listed in the materials**  
4           **developed pursuant to this Paragraph meets all of the following criteria:**

5           **(i) Provides counseling services that objectively address the mental,**  
6           **emotional, and behavioral health effects that may result from being a victim of**  
7           **human trafficking.**

8           **(ii) Is not affiliated with an abortion provider.**

9           **(c) The materials developed pursuant to this Paragraph shall clearly indicate**  
10          **all of the following:**

11          **(i) That victims of human trafficking can be safe after their rescue from**  
12          **being trafficked.**

13          **(ii) That Louisiana provides for assistance to victims of human trafficking,**  
14          **as required by R.S. 46:2162 et seq.**

15          **(iii) That there are public and private agencies providing valuable assistance**  
16          **to women and girls who have been commercially and sexually exploited; and that**  
17          **help available to victims of trafficking and other exploitation includes housing**  
18          **assistance, education, job training, and drug addiction counseling.**

19          **(iv) That legal assistance is available to women and girls seeking to escape**  
20          **the sex trade, including assistance in vacating prior prostitution convictions.**

21          **(v) That the crime of trafficking of children for sexual purposes is subject**  
22          **to the mandatory reporting laws set forth in Children's Code Articles 603, 609, and**  
23          **610.**

24          **(d) Any pamphlet developed pursuant to this Paragraph shall be known as**  
25          **the "Point of Rescue" pamphlet.**

26          **E.(1) Each copy of a pamphlet or other printed item that the department**  
27          **creates pursuant to Subsection D of this Section for distribution to women and minor**  
28          **females considering abortion shall be marked with a unique identifier printed on**

1        three segments that are perforated and can be torn easily from the pamphlet or other  
2        printed item.

3                (2) When the physician or other qualified person conveys the pamphlet or  
4        other printed item to a woman or minor female considering an abortion as required  
5        in Subsection C of this Section, he shall remove two segments bearing the unique  
6        identifier and dispense with those segments as follows:

7                (a) He shall place one segment bearing the unique identifier in the medical  
8        record of the woman along with all other documentation required by R.S.  
9        40:1299.35.8.

10               (b) He shall submit one segment bearing the unique identifier to the  
11        department within thirty days after the date of the abortion along with all other  
12        documentation required by R.S. 40:1299.35.10.

13               (3) The department may produce copies of the materials described in  
14        Subsection D of this Section that do not bear unique identifiers, and such materials  
15        lacking unique identifiers may be distributed to persons other than women and minor  
16        females who are required to receive the materials by the provisions of Subsection C  
17        of this Section, and to have certification of receipt of the materials included in their  
18        medical records in accordance with R.S. 40:1299.35.8(A). All copies of materials  
19        that women and minor females considering abortion are required to receive shall bear  
20        a unique identifier in accordance with Paragraph (1) of this Subsection for the  
21        purpose of facilitating recordation in accordance with Paragraph (2) of this  
22        Subsection.

23               F. The governor shall convene a task force to assist the Department of Health  
24        and Hospitals in the preparation of the printed and Internet materials provided for in  
25        this Section. The task force shall be comprised of the following members:

26               (1) One psychologist licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of  
27        Psychologists.

28               (2) One physician who is board certified as a psychiatrist and licensed by the  
29        Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.





a woman or minor female considering an abortion, he shall remove two segments bearing the unique identifier and dispense with those segments as follows:

- (1) He shall place one segment bearing the unique identifier in the medical record of the woman along with all other documentation required by present law, R.S. 40:1299.35.8.
- (2) He shall submit one segment bearing the unique identifier to DHH within 30 days after the date of the abortion along with all other documentation required by present law R.S. 40:1299.35.10.

Proposed law authorizes DHH to produce copies of the materials described in present law that do not bear unique identifiers. Provides that such materials lacking unique identifiers may be distributed to persons other than women and minor females who are required to receive the materials by present law, and to have certification of receipt of the materials included in their medical records.

Proposed law provides a declaration indicating that women of this state have a right to know that undergoing an abortion may have serious psychological impacts, including severe emotional distress and mental and behavioral health afflictions.

Proposed law provides that at least 24 hours prior to undergoing an elective abortion, the woman or minor female considering abortion shall be given a copy of the printed materials on psychological impacts, illegal coercion, abuse, and human trafficking described in proposed law. Proposed law stipulates that provision of these materials is a condition for the woman's or minor female's consent to the abortion to be deemed voluntary and informed.

Proposed law requires that the physician or qualified person, as defined in present law, shall provide to the woman or minor female seeking an abortion the materials required by proposed law individually and in a private room for the purpose of ensuring that she has an adequate opportunity to ask questions and discuss her individual circumstances.

Proposed law requires that the physician or qualified person obtain the signature of the woman or minor female certifying that the printed materials were given to her.

Proposed law provides that in the case of a minor female considering an abortion, if a parent accompanies the minor female to the appointment with the physician or qualified person, then the physician or qualified person shall provide to the parent copies of the materials that were given to the female in accordance with proposed law.

Proposed law requires DHH to create printed materials and printable Internet-based resources that provide information on mental, emotional, and behavioral health impacts prior to abortion; mental, emotional, and behavioral health impacts after abortion; coerced abortion; and human trafficking. Stipulates that provision of all materials described in proposed law prior to abortion is a condition for the woman's or minor female's consent to the abortion to be deemed voluntary and informed. Provides that the materials resources shall include the following:

- (1) Information, telephone numbers, and links to Internet websites of nonprofit organizations that offer free and confidential access to mental health professionals, social workers, and other trained counselors who serve women and minor females who may experience psychological distress or other mental, emotional, or behavioral health afflictions before an abortion.
- (2) Information, telephone numbers, and links to Internet websites of nonprofit organizations that offer free and confidential access to mental health professionals, social workers, and other trained counselors who serve women and minor females

who may experience psychological distress or other mental, emotional, or behavioral health afflictions after undergoing an abortion.

- (3) Information, telephone numbers, and links to Internet websites of nonprofit organizations that offer free and confidential access to mental health professionals, social workers, and other trained counselors who are trained in counseling women and minor females who experience coercion to obtain an abortion concerning the psychological impacts or other mental, emotional, or behavioral health afflictions that may result from experiencing a coerced abortion. Proposed law requires that such materials clearly indicate that coerced abortion is defined in present law as a form of abuse that seriously endangers the physical, mental, and emotional health and safety of a child.
- (4) Information, telephone numbers, and links to Internet websites of nonprofit organizations that offer free and confidential access to mental health professionals, social workers, and other trained counselors for women and minor females who are victims of the crime of human trafficking or the crime of trafficking of children for sexual purposes. Proposed law requires that such materials clearly indicate all of the following:
  - (a) That victims of human trafficking can be safe after their rescue from being trafficked.
  - (b) That Louisiana provides by law for assistance to victims of human trafficking.
  - (c) That there are public and private agencies providing valuable assistance to women and girls who have been commercially and sexually exploited; and that help available to victims of trafficking and other exploitation includes housing assistance, education, job training, and drug addiction counseling.
  - (d) That legal assistance is available to women and girls seeking to escape the sex trade, including assistance in vacating prior prostitution convictions.
  - (e) That the crime of trafficking of children for sexual purposes is subject to the mandatory reporting requirements set forth in present law.

Proposed law provides that any pamphlet concerning human trafficking developed pursuant to proposed law shall be known as the "Point of Rescue" pamphlet.

Proposed law requires DHH to ensure that any mental or behavioral health professional or other counselor to whom a woman or minor female may be referred through the organizations listed in the materials developed pursuant to proposed law meets all of the following criteria:

- (1) Provides counseling services that objectively address the mental, emotional, and behavioral health effects that may result prior to abortion, after abortion, pursuant to coerced abortion, and from human trafficking.
- (2) Is not affiliated with an abortion provider.

Proposed law requires that each copy of a pamphlet or other printed item created pursuant to proposed law shall be marked with a unique identifier printed on three segments that are perforated and can be torn easily from the pamphlet or other printed item. Requires further that when the physician or other qualified person conveys the pamphlet or other printed item to a woman or minor female considering an abortion, he shall remove two segments bearing the unique identifier and dispense with those segments as follows:

- (1) He shall place one segment bearing the unique identifier in the medical record of the woman along with all other documentation required by present law, R.S. 40:1299.35.8.
- (2) He shall submit one segment bearing the unique identifier to DHH within 30 days after the date of the abortion along with all other documentation required by present law, R.S. 40:1299.35.10.

Proposed law authorizes DHH to produce copies of the materials described in proposed law that do not bear unique identifiers. Provides that such materials lacking unique identifiers may be distributed to persons other than women and minor females who are required to receive the materials by proposed law, and to have certification of receipt of the materials included in their medical records.

Proposed law provides that the governor shall convene a 14-member task force to assist DHH in the preparation of the printed and Internet materials provided for in proposed law. Provides that the task force shall be comprised of the following members:

- (1) One psychologist licensed by the La. State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.
- (2) One physician who is board certified as a psychiatrist and licensed by the La. State Board of Medical Examiners.
- (3) One licensed clinical social worker licensed by the La. State Board of Social Work Examiners.
- (4) Two La. residents who provide pre-abortion or post-abortion counseling in association with a nonprofit organization that does not counsel for or provide abortion.
- (5) Two attorneys licensed in La. who specialize in advocacy for women and minor females who are at risk of being coerced into or psychologically harmed by abortion.
- (6) The executive director of the La. Human Trafficking Task Force.
- (7) The executive director and the residential director of a residential program for women who have been commercially and sexually exploited.
- (8) Two members of the Senate appointed by the president.
- (9) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker.
- (10) The secretary of DHH, who shall serve as the chairperson of the task force.

Proposed law stipulates that nothing therein shall be construed to conflict with or supercede the requirement for mandatory reporting of child abuse provided in Ch.C. Art. 609 of present law.

Present law, R.S. 40:1299.35.8, requires each physician who performs an abortion to retain and make part of the medical record of each pregnant woman upon whom an abortion is performed or induced copies of certain forms, certificates, and other documents. Proposed law retains present law and adds the following to the enumerated list of items to be retained and made part of the medical record:

- (1) The signed certification form provided for in proposed law indicating that the woman acknowledged receipt of the informational materials concerning psychological impacts, illegal coercion, abuse, and human trafficking.

- (2) The segments bearing the unique identifiers of the pamphlets and other printed items conveyed to a woman or minor female prior to the abortion procedure addressing psychological impacts, illegal coercion, abuse, and human trafficking as required in proposed law.

Present law, R.S. 40:1299.35.10, requires each physician who performs an abortion to submit to DHH, within 30 days of the date of the abortion, a report encompassing de-identified health and demographic data on the woman upon whom the abortion was performed, along with certain other forms and documents. Proposed law retains present law and adds the following to the enumerated list of items to be included in the report to DHH:

- (1) The signed certification form provided for in proposed law indicating that the woman acknowledged receipt of the informational materials concerning psychological impacts, illegal coercion, abuse, and human trafficking.
- (2) The segments bearing the unique identifiers of the pamphlets and other printed items conveyed to a woman or minor female prior to the abortion procedure addressing psychological impacts, illegal coercion, abuse, and human trafficking as required in proposed law.

(Amends R.S. 40:1299.35.6(B)(5); Adds R.S. 40:1299.35.5.2, 1299.35.8(A)(6) and (7), and 1299.35.10(A)(27) and (28))