
DIGEST

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Crowe

HB No. 25

Abstract: Requires the inclusion of information related to fetal pain as a requirement to informed consent prior to performance of an abortion.

Proposed law requires that, at least 24 hours before the abortion, the physician who will perform the abortion inform the woman, orally and in person, of the availability of anesthesia or analgesics to alleviate or eliminate organic pain to the unborn child that could be caused by the method of abortion to be employed.

Proposed law mandates that DHH publish, in English, printed materials that contain the following statement:

"By 20 weeks gestation, the unborn child has the physical structures necessary to experience pain. There is evidence that by 20 weeks gestation unborn children seek to evade certain stimuli in a manner which in an infant or an adult would be interpreted to be a response to pain. Anesthesia is routinely administered to unborn children who are 20 weeks gestational age or older who undergo prenatal surgery."

(Amends R.S. 40:1299.35.6(C)(1)(a); Adds R.S. 40:1299.35.6(A)(5)(d) and (B)(1)(g))