
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 following:

- (1) 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.
- (2) The option of reviewing and receiving an explanation of an obstetric ultrasound image of the unborn child. A woman is not required to view or receive an explanation of the obstetric ultrasound images. Neither the physician or the woman will be penalized should the woman choose not to view or receive an explanation of the obstetric ultrasound images.

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

"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) and (h))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Makes technical changes.
2. Adds to the requirements of informed consent.