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## DIGEST

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Ivey

HB No. 727

**Abstract:** Requires provision of psychological health information prior to abortion.

Proposed law requires that prior to undergoing an elective abortion, and as a condition for consent to the abortion to be deemed voluntary and informed, a physician shall obtain a signed statement on a form to be prepared by and obtained from the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and kept within the woman's medical record for a period of at least seven years, stating that the woman has been given information on resources that she can review to learn the increased risks of psychiatric and psychological harms associated with abortion.

Proposed law requires DHH to create printable Internet-based resources that include telephone numbers and links to websites of nonprofit organizations that provide confidential helplines to give women free access to professional and lay counselors who are trained and compassionate in helping those who are considering abortion or who are experiencing psychiatric or psychological distress after an abortion.

Proposed law provides that the governor shall appoint a 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 layperson who provides pre-abortion or post-abortion counseling in association with a nonprofit organization that does not counsel for or provide abortion.

(Adds R.S. 40:1299.35.5.2)