

HB 1472 -- Informed Consent for Abortions

Sponsor: Cunningham (86)

This bill revises the definition of "abortion" to the act of using or prescribing any instrument, medicine, drug, or any other substance, device, or any other means with the intent to terminate a pregnancy and cause the death of an unborn child.

Currently, abortions may only be performed when informed and written consent is freely given by the pregnant woman, except for abortions performed in the case of a medical emergency. The bill requires that in addition to the written informed consent, the woman must receive a fetal ultrasound imaging and auscultation of the fetal heart tones to view the image and hear the heart beat of her unborn child. The obstetric ultrasound and auscultation must be performed by the physician performing the abortion at least 24 hours prior to the abortion.

The pregnant woman must certify by signature at least 24 hours prior to an abortion that she either received or opted not to receive the ultrasound and auscultation of fetal heart tones. Physicians that fail to comply with these requirements can be subject to civil malpractice and professional disciplinary actions.