

HB 1520 -- Informed Consent for Abortions

Sponsor: Hodges

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. This bill adds additional criteria to meet the informed consent standard by requiring the physician performing the abortion to inform the pregnant woman of the risks associated with the abortion procedure, the probable gestational age of the unborn child, and the medical risks of carrying her child to term. In addition to the written informed consent, the bill requires the physician to discuss the medical assistance and counseling resources available, advise the mother of the father's liability for child support, and provide information about the Alternatives to Abortion Program. The physician will be required to perform a fetal ultrasound imaging and auscultation of the fetal heart tones so the pregnant woman can view the image and hear the heart beat of her unborn child at least 24 hours prior to performing the abortion.