

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 131

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE BRATTIN.

0411H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 188.027, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to consent requirements for abortions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 188.027, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 188.027, to read as follows:

188.027. 1. Except in the case of medical emergency, no abortion shall be performed or induced on a woman without her voluntary and informed consent, given freely and without coercion. Consent to an abortion is voluntary and informed and given freely and without coercion if, and only if, at least seventy-two hours prior to the abortion:

(1) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional has informed the woman orally, reduced to writing, and in person, of the following:

(a) The name of the physician who will perform or induce the abortion;

(b) Medically accurate information that a reasonable patient would consider material to the decision of whether or not to undergo the abortion, including:

a. A description of the proposed abortion method;

b. The immediate and long-term medical risks to the woman associated with the proposed abortion method including, but not limited to, infection, hemorrhage, cervical tear or uterine perforation, harm to subsequent pregnancies or the ability to carry a subsequent child to term, and possible adverse psychological effects associated with the abortion; and

c. The immediate and long-term medical risks to the woman, in light of the anesthesia and medication that is to be administered, the unborn child's gestational age, and the woman's medical history and medical condition;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 (c) Alternatives to the abortion which shall include making the woman aware that
19 information and materials shall be provided to her detailing such alternatives to the abortion;

20 (d) A statement that the physician performing or inducing the abortion is available for
21 any questions concerning the abortion, together with the telephone number that the physician
22 may be later reached to answer any questions that the woman may have;

23 (e) The location of the hospital that offers obstetrical or gynecological care located
24 within thirty miles of the location where the abortion is performed or induced and at which the
25 physician performing or inducing the abortion has clinical privileges and where the woman may
26 receive follow-up care by the physician if complications arise;

27 (f) The gestational age of the unborn child at the time the abortion is to be performed or
28 induced; and

29 (g) The anatomical and physiological characteristics of the unborn child at the time the
30 abortion is to be performed or induced;

31 (2) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional
32 has presented the woman, in person, printed materials provided by the department, which
33 describe the probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the unborn child at
34 two-week gestational increments from conception to full term, including color photographs or
35 images of the developing unborn child at two-week gestational increments. Such descriptions
36 shall include information about brain and heart functions, the presence of external members and
37 internal organs during the applicable stages of development and information on when the unborn
38 child is viable. The printed materials shall prominently display the following statement: "The
39 life of each human being begins at conception. Abortion will terminate the life of a separate,
40 unique, living human being.";

41 (3) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional
42 has presented the woman, in person, printed materials provided by the department, which
43 describe the various surgical and drug-induced methods of abortion relevant to the stage of
44 pregnancy, as well as the immediate and long-term medical risks commonly associated with each
45 abortion method including, but not limited to, infection, hemorrhage, cervical tear or uterine
46 perforation, harm to subsequent pregnancies or the ability to carry a subsequent child to term,
47 and the possible adverse psychological effects associated with an abortion;

48 (4) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional
49 shall provide the woman with the opportunity to view at least seventy-two hours prior to the
50 abortion an active ultrasound of the unborn child and hear the heartbeat of the unborn child if
51 the heartbeat is audible. The woman shall be provided with a geographically indexed list
52 maintained by the department of health care providers, facilities, and clinics that perform
53 ultrasounds, including those that offer ultrasound services free of charge. Such materials shall

54 provide contact information for each provider, facility, or clinic including telephone numbers
55 and, if available, website addresses. Should the woman decide to obtain an ultrasound from a
56 provider, facility, or clinic other than the abortion facility, the woman shall be offered a
57 reasonable time to obtain the ultrasound examination before the date and time set for performing
58 or inducing an abortion. The person conducting the ultrasound shall ensure that the active
59 ultrasound image is of a quality consistent with standard medical practice in the community,
60 contains the dimensions of the unborn child, and accurately portrays the presence of external
61 members and internal organs, if present or viewable, of the unborn child. The auscultation of
62 fetal heart tone must also be of a quality consistent with standard medical practice in the
63 community. If the woman chooses to view the ultrasound or hear the heartbeat or both at the
64 abortion facility, the viewing or hearing or both shall be provided to her at the abortion facility
65 at least seventy-two hours prior to the abortion being performed or induced;

66 (5) Prior to an abortion being performed or induced on an unborn child of twenty-two
67 weeks gestational age or older, the physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a
68 qualified professional has presented the woman, in person, printed materials provided by the
69 department that offer information on the possibility of the abortion causing pain to the unborn
70 child. This information shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:

71 (a) At least by twenty-two weeks of gestational age, the unborn child possesses all the
72 anatomical structures, including pain receptors, spinal cord, nerve tracts, thalamus, and cortex,
73 that are necessary in order to feel pain;

74 (b) A description of the actual steps in the abortion procedure to be performed or
75 induced, and at which steps the abortion procedure could be painful to the unborn child;

76 (c) There is evidence that by twenty-two weeks of gestational age, unborn children seek
77 to evade certain stimuli in a manner that in an infant or an adult would be interpreted as a
78 response to pain;

79 (d) Anesthesia is given to unborn children who are twenty-two weeks or more gestational
80 age who undergo prenatal surgery;

81 (e) Anesthesia is given to premature children who are twenty-two weeks or more
82 gestational age who undergo surgery;

83 (f) Anesthesia or an analgesic is available in order to minimize or alleviate the pain to
84 the unborn child;

85 (6) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional
86 has presented the woman, in person, printed materials provided by the department explaining to
87 the woman alternatives to abortion she may wish to consider. Such materials shall:

88 (a) Identify on a geographical basis public and private agencies available to assist a
89 woman in carrying her unborn child to term, and to assist her in caring for her dependent child

90 or placing her child for adoption, including agencies commonly known and generally referred
91 to as pregnancy resource centers, crisis pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and adoption
92 agencies. Such materials shall provide a comprehensive list by geographical area of the
93 agencies, a description of the services they offer, and the telephone numbers and addresses of
94 the agencies; provided that such materials shall not include any programs, services,
95 organizations, or affiliates of organizations that perform or induce, or assist in the performing
96 or inducing of, abortions or that refer for abortions;

97 (b) Explain the Missouri alternatives to abortion services program under section 188.325,
98 and any other programs and services available to pregnant women and mothers of newborn
99 children offered by public or private agencies which assist a woman in carrying her unborn child
100 to term and assist her in caring for her dependent child or placing her child for adoption,
101 including but not limited to prenatal care; maternal health care; newborn or infant care; mental
102 health services; professional counseling services; housing programs; utility assistance;
103 transportation services; food, clothing, and supplies related to pregnancy; parenting skills;
104 educational programs; job training and placement services; drug and alcohol testing and
105 treatment; and adoption assistance;

106 (c) Identify the state website for the Missouri alternatives to abortion services program
107 under section 188.325, and any toll-free number established by the state operated in conjunction
108 with the program;

109 (d) Prominently display the statement: "There are public and private agencies willing
110 and able to help you carry your child to term, and to assist you and your child after your child is
111 born, whether you choose to keep your child or place him or her for adoption. The state of
112 Missouri encourages you to contact those agencies before making a final decision about abortion.
113 State law requires that your physician or a qualified professional give you the opportunity to call
114 agencies like these before you undergo an abortion.";

115 (7) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional
116 has presented the woman, in person, printed materials provided by the department explaining that
117 the father of the unborn child is liable to assist in the support of the child, even in instances
118 where he has offered to pay for the abortion. Such materials shall include information on the
119 legal duties and support obligations of the father of a child, including, but not limited to, child
120 support payments, and the fact that paternity may be established by the father's name on a birth
121 certificate or statement of paternity, or by court action. Such printed materials shall also state
122 that more information concerning paternity establishment and child support services and
123 enforcement may be obtained by calling the family support division within the Missouri
124 department of social services; and

(8) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional shall inform the woman that she is free to withhold or withdraw her consent to the abortion at any time without affecting her right to future care or treatment and without the loss of any state or federally funded benefits to which she might otherwise be entitled.

2. All information required to be provided to a woman considering abortion by subsection 1 of this section shall be presented to the woman individually, in the physical presence of the woman and in a private room, to protect her privacy, to maintain the confidentiality of her decision, to ensure that the information focuses on her individual circumstances, to ensure she has an adequate opportunity to ask questions, and to ensure that she is not a victim of coerced abortion. Should a woman be unable to read materials provided to her, they shall be read to her. Should a woman need an interpreter to understand the information presented in the written materials, an interpreter shall be provided to her. Should a woman ask questions concerning any of the information or materials, answers shall be provided in a language she can understand.

3. No abortion shall be performed or induced unless and until the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed or induced certifies in writing on a checklist form provided by the department that she has been presented all the information required in subsection 1 of this section, that she has been provided the opportunity to view an active ultrasound image of the unborn child and hear the heartbeat of the unborn child if it is audible, and that she further certifies that she gives her voluntary and informed consent, freely and without coercion, to the abortion procedure.

4. No abortion shall be performed or induced on an unborn child of twenty-two weeks gestational age or older unless and until the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed or induced has been provided the opportunity to choose to have an anesthetic or analgesic administered to eliminate or alleviate pain to the unborn child caused by the particular method of abortion to be performed or induced. The administration of anesthesia or analgesics shall be performed in a manner consistent with standard medical practice in the community.

5. No physician shall perform or induce an abortion unless and until the physician has obtained from the woman her voluntary and informed consent given freely and without coercion. If the physician has reason to believe that the woman is being coerced into having an abortion, the physician or qualified professional shall inform the woman that services are available for her and shall provide her with private access to a telephone and information about such services, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) Rape crisis centers, as defined in section 455.003;
- (2) Shelters for victims of domestic violence, as defined in section 455.200; and
- (3) Orders of protection, pursuant to chapter 455.

161 6. No physician shall perform or induce an abortion unless and until the physician has
162 received and signed a copy of the form prescribed in subsection 3 of this section. The physician
163 shall retain a copy of the form in the patient's medical record.

164 7. In the event of a medical emergency as provided by section 188.039, the physician
165 who performed or induced the abortion shall clearly certify in writing the nature and
166 circumstances of the medical emergency. This certification shall be signed by the physician who
167 performed or induced the abortion, and shall be maintained under section 188.060.

168 8. No person or entity shall require, obtain, or accept payment for an abortion from or
169 on behalf of a patient until at least seventy-two hours have passed since the time that the
170 information required by subsection 1 of this section has been provided to the patient. Nothing
171 in this subsection shall prohibit a person or entity from notifying the patient that payment for the
172 abortion will be required after the seventy-two-hour period has expired if she voluntarily chooses
173 to have the abortion.

174 9. The term "qualified professional" as used in this section shall refer to a physician,
175 physician assistant, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, psychologist, licensed professional
176 counselor, or licensed social worker, licensed or registered under chapter 334, 335, or 337, acting
177 under the supervision of the physician performing or inducing the abortion, and acting within
178 the course and scope of his or her authority provided by law. The provisions of this section shall
179 not be construed to in any way expand the authority otherwise provided by law relating to the
180 licensure, registration, or scope of practice of any such qualified professional.

181 10. By November 30, 2010, the department shall produce the written materials and forms
182 described in this section. Any written materials produced shall be printed in a typeface large
183 enough to be clearly legible. All information shall be presented in an objective, unbiased manner
184 designed to convey only accurate scientific and medical information. The department shall
185 furnish the written materials and forms at no cost and in sufficient quantity to any person who
186 performs or induces abortions, or to any hospital or facility that provides abortions. The
187 department shall make all information required by subsection 1 of this section available to the
188 public through its department website. The department shall maintain a toll-free,
189 twenty-four-hour hotline telephone number where a caller can obtain information on a regional
190 basis concerning the agencies and services described in subsection 1 of this section. No
191 identifying information regarding persons who use the website shall be collected or maintained.
192 The department shall monitor the website on a regular basis to prevent tampering and correct any
193 operational deficiencies.

194 11. In order to preserve the compelling interest of the state to ensure that the choice to
195 consent to an abortion is voluntary and informed, and given freely and without coercion, the
196 department shall use the procedures for adoption of emergency rules under section 536.025 in

197 order to promulgate all necessary rules, forms, and other necessary material to implement this
198 section by November 30, 2010.

199 12. If the provisions in subsections 1 and 8 of this section requiring a seventy-two-hour
200 waiting period for an abortion are ever temporarily or permanently restrained or enjoined by
201 judicial order, then the waiting period for an abortion shall be twenty-four hours; provided,
202 however, that if such temporary or permanent restraining order or injunction is stayed or
203 dissolved, or otherwise ceases to have effect, the waiting period for an abortion shall be
204 seventy-two hours.

205 **13. No abortion shall be performed or induced unless and until the father of the**
206 **unborn child provides written, notarized consent to the abortion, except in cases in which**
207 **the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed or induced was the victim of rape**
208 **or incest and the pregnancy resulted from the rape or incest. If the father of the unborn**
209 **child is deceased, the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed or induced shall**
210 **sign a notarized affidavit attesting to the fact. No physician shall perform or induce an**
211 **abortion unless and until the physician has obtained the written consent required in this**
212 **subsection. The physician shall retain a copy of the consent or affidavit in the patient's**
213 **medical record.**

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