

HB 818 -- ABOLITION OF ABORTION IN MISSOURI ACT

SPONSOR: Titus

This bill creates the "Abolition of Abortion in Missouri Act" and declares that it is the intent of the Missouri General Assembly to acknowledge and support the sanctity of innocent human life and the unborn child at every stage of development by following the Missouri Constitution and statutes.

This bill adds the definition of "person" in the criminal code to include a human being, including an unborn child at every stage of development from the moment of fertilization until birth.

The bill provides that any person accused of committing any criminal offense against a person under the laws of this state where the victim is an unborn child shall be prosecuted in a venue as provided in the bill.

The affirmative defense of duress for the offense of murder shall be available where the victim is an unborn child and the defendant is the child's mother. This bill also provides it shall be a justifiable defense if a medical procedure is performed by a licensed physician on a pregnant female to avert the death of the female which results in the accidental or unintentional death of the unborn child and all reasonable alternatives to save the life of the unborn child were unavailable or were unsuccessful.

This bill is the same as SB 356 (2023).