

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1544

4
5 By: Representatives Underwood, Lundstrum, Bryant, Haak, Dotson, Furman, Bentley
6 By: Senator G. Stubblefield

For An Act To Be Entitled

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8
9 AN ACT TO AFFIRM THE RIGHT OF A MUNICIPALITY TO
10 DECLARE THE MUNICIPALITY A PRO-LIFE CITY; AND FOR
11 OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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15 TO AFFIRM THE RIGHT OF A MUNICIPALITY TO
16 DECLARE THE MUNICIPALITY A PRO-LIFE CITY.

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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 54, Subchapter 8, is
22 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 14-54-805. Pro-Life City designation.

24 (a) A municipality may state by resolution:

25 (1) That the policy of the municipality is to promote and
26 protect the dignity and humanity of all persons at all stages of life from
27 conception until natural death;

28 (2) That the municipality is to be known as a "Pro-Life City";
29 and

30 (3) The following findings:

31 (A) The Declaration of Independence declares that all men
32 are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain
33 unalienable rights, including the right to life;

34 (B) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 68, states that the
35 policy of the state is to protect the life of every unborn child from
36 conception until birth;



1 (C) It is the duty of state and local government to
 2 protect the unalienable right to life of every person within each respective
 3 jurisdiction; and

4 (D) The United States Supreme Court found in Poelker v.
 5 Doe, 432 U.S. 519 (1977), that the United States Constitution does not
 6 prohibit a municipality using democratic processes from expressing a
 7 preference for childbirth rather than abortion.

8 (b) A municipality that passes a resolution under subsection (a) of
 9 this section may promote the Pro-Life City status in a manner consistent with
 10 other law, including without limitation by:

11 (1) Placing signs along rights-of-way near the boundaries of the
 12 municipality;

13 (2) Advertising in any promotion, advertisement, or public
 14 relations effort;

15 (3) Placing signs or banners on municipal property;

16 (4) Placing a slogan or other notation on municipal utility
 17 billing or other communications to municipal residents;

18 (5) Producing and distributing signs, decals, or other material
 19 for businesses or residents to voluntarily use and display;

20 (6) Promoting at festivals, parades, or other public events;

21 (7) Urging municipal employees to develop and implement
 22 innovative and creative ways for promotion;

23 (8) Placing a slogan or other notation on publicly owned
 24 vehicles;

25 (9) Declaring pro-life observances, such as a pro-life day or
 26 pro-life month;

27 (10) Encouraging local schools and civic clubs to promote the
 28 dignity of human life;

29 (11) Encouraging local places of worship to promote the sanctity
 30 of human life;

31 (12) Erecting monuments or other permanent memorials to lives
 32 lost to abortion;

33 (13) Establishing a cemetery or other place for the dignified
 34 burial of the unborn and for memorials to those who have died in an abortion;
 35 and

36 (14) Using public service announcements.

APPROVED: 3/17/21