

Hall of the House of Representatives

87th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2009

Amendment Form

Subtitle of House Bill No. 1113

"THE PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT."

Amendment No. 2 to House Bill No. 1113.

Amend House Bill No. 1113 as engrossed, H2/3/09 (version: 02-03-2009 10:18):

Add Representatives Adcock, Maloch, and Dale as cosponsors of the bill

AND

Delete everything after the ENACTING clause and substitute the following:

"SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 16 is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

20-16-1201. Title.

This subchapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act".

20-16-1202. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Partial-birth abortion" means an abortion in which the person performing the abortion:

(A) Purposely vaginally delivers a living human fetus until, in the case of a head-first presentation, the entire fetal head is outside the body of the female or, in the case of breech presentation, any part of the fetal trunk past the navel is outside the body of the female, for the purpose of performing an overt act that the person knows will kill the partially delivered living human fetus; and

(B) Performs the overt act, other than completion of delivery of a living human fetus, that kills the partially delivered living human fetus; and

(2)(A) "Physician" means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy legally authorized to practice medicine and surgery in this state, or any other individual legally authorized by the state to perform abortions.

(B) However, any individual who is not a physician or not otherwise legally authorized by the state to perform abortions, but who nevertheless directly performs a partial-birth abortion, is subject to this subchapter.

20-16-1203. Partial-birth abortions prohibited – Penalty – Exception.



(a)(1) Any person who knowingly performs a partial-birth abortion and thereby kills a human fetus is guilty of a Class D felony.

(2) This subsection (a) does not apply to a partial-birth abortion that is necessary to save the life of a mother whose life is endangered by a physical disorder, physical illness, or physical injury, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself.

(b) A female upon whom a partial-birth abortion is performed shall not be prosecuted under this subchapter.

20-16-1204. License suspension or revocation and fines.

(a)(1) After proper notice and an opportunity to be heard, the Arkansas State Medical Board may assess a civil fine against a physician who violates this subchapter.

(2) The civil fine shall not exceed:

(A) Twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the first violation;

(B) Fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the second violation;

(C) One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the third violation; and

(D) For each subsequent violation, any amount over one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) sufficient to deter future violations.

(b) The board may suspend or revoke the physician's license in accordance with procedures established under § 17-95-410.

(c)(1) All fines assessed and collected under this section shall be remitted into the Treasurer of State.

(2) The Treasurer of State shall deposit the entire amount of any fines collected under this section in the State Treasury as general revenues.

(d) The civil fine assessed under this section is in addition to the criminal penalty imposed under § 20-16-1203.

20-16-1205. Civil Liability.

(a) The father, if married to the mother at the time she receives a partial-birth abortion procedure, and if the mother has not attained the age of eighteen (18) years at the time of the abortion, the maternal grandparents of the fetus, may obtain appropriate relief in a civil action, unless the pregnancy resulted from the plaintiff's criminal conduct or the plaintiff consented to the abortion.

(b) Relief under subsection (a) of this section shall include:

(1) Money damages for all injuries, psychological and physical, occasioned by the violation of this section; and

(2) Statutory damages equal to three (3) times the cost of the partial-birth abortion.

(c) Damages shall not be assessed against the female upon whom a partial-birth abortion is performed.

20-16-1206. Hearings before the Arkansas State Medical Board.

(a) A physician accused of a violation of this subchapter may seek a hearing before the Arkansas State Medical Board to determine whether the physician's conduct was necessary to save the life of the female under § 20-

16-1203.

(b) Findings from a hearing held under subsection (a) of this section are admissible at the trial of the physician on the issue of whether the physician's conduct was necessary to save the life of the female under § 20-16-1203.

(c) Upon a motion of the physician, the circuit court shall delay the beginning of the trial for not more than ninety (90) days to permit a hearing under subsection (a) of this section to take place.

20-16-1207. Provision for anonymity of female.

(a) In every proceeding or action under this subchapter, the circuit court shall rule whether the anonymity of any female upon whom a partial-birth abortion is performed should be preserved from public disclosure if the female does not give her consent to the disclosure.

(b)(1) Upon its own motion or upon motion by a party to the proceeding or action under this subchapter, the circuit court shall make a ruling concerning the anonymity of any female upon whom a partial-birth abortion is performed.

(2) Upon determining that the anonymity should be preserved, the circuit court shall issue orders to the parties, witnesses, and counsel and shall direct the sealing of the record and exclusion of individuals from courtrooms or hearing rooms to the extent necessary to safeguard the female's identity from public disclosure.

(3) Each order under subdivision (b)(2) of this section shall be accompanied by a specific written finding explaining:

(A) Why the anonymity of the female should be preserved from public disclosure;

(B) Why the order is essential to that end;

(C) How the order is narrowly tailored to serve that interest; and

(D) Why no reasonable, less restrictive alternative exists.

(c) In the absence of written consent of the female upon whom a partial-birth abortion has been performed, any person other than a public official who brings an action under this subchapter shall do so under a pseudonym.

(d) This section shall not be construed to conceal the identity of the plaintiff or of a witness from the defendant.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 61, Subchapter 2 is repealed.

~~5-61-201. Title.~~

~~This subchapter may be cited as the "Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1997".~~

~~5-61-202. Definitions.~~

~~As used in this subchapter, "partial-birth abortion" means an abortion in which the person performing the abortion partially vaginally delivers a living fetus before taking the life of the fetus and completing the delivery or as defined by the United States Supreme Court.~~

~~5-61-203. Partial-birth abortions prohibited.~~

~~(a) Any person who knowingly performs a partial birth abortion and thereby takes the life of a human fetus is guilty of a Class D felony.~~

~~(b) A woman upon whom a partial birth abortion is performed may not be prosecuted under this section for conspiracy, solicitation, attempt, or complicity to violate this section.~~

~~(c) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under this section, which must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence, that the partial-birth abortion was performed by a physician who reasonably believed:~~

~~(1) The partial birth abortion was necessary to save the life of the woman upon whom it was performed; and~~

~~(2) No other form of abortion would suffice for that purpose.~~

~~(d)(1) Prior to charging a person under this section, a prosecutor shall refer the investigation to the State Medical Board, which shall determine whether the procedure at issue in the investigation is a partial-birth abortion as defined by this subchapter.~~

~~(2) If the board determines that the procedure being investigated is not a partial birth abortion as defined by this subchapter, the prosecutor shall not proceed with the case.~~

~~(e) This subchapter is operative and shall be enforced to the extent permitted by the United States Constitution and laws.~~

~~5-61-204. Professional sanctions.~~

~~(a) Any person who knowingly performs a partial birth abortion is subject to disciplinary action by the State Medical Board.~~

~~(b) Disciplinary action taken by the board against a physician who violates this subchapter shall include, as determined by the board:~~

~~(1) A fine not greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000);~~

~~(2) Suspension of the physician's license for a period not greater than one (1) year; or~~

~~(3) Revocation of the physician's license.~~

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that partial-birth abortion poses serious risks to the health of a female undergoing the procedure; that those risks include, among other things: an increase in a female's risk of suffering from cervical incompetence, a result of cervical dilation making it difficult or impossible for a female to successfully carry a subsequent pregnancy to term; an increased risk of uterine rupture, abruption, amniotic fluid embolus, and trauma to the uterus as a result of converting the child to a footling breech position and a risk of lacerations and secondary hemorrhaging due to the physician blindly forcing a sharp instrument into the base of the unborn child's skull while he or she is lodged in the birth canal, an act which could result in severe bleeding, brings with it the threat of shock, and could ultimately result in maternal death. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is

overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto."

The Amendment was read _____

By: Representative D. Creekmore

MGF/KSW - 02-10-2009 07:39

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Chief Clerk