

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1076

5 By: Representatives J. Mayberry, Hammer, Bentley, Sullivan, Wardlaw, Henderson, Baltz, Cozart,
6 Lowery, D. Meeks, Lundstrum, Sorvillo, Gates, Richmond, House, Womack, Branscum, Boyd, Lemons,
7 Bragg, Drown, Beck, Hickerson, Collins, Payton, Brown, Copeland, Tosh, Wallace, Ladyman, Rushing,
8 Ballinger, C. Douglas, Gonzales, K. Hendren, S. Meeks, Dotson, C. Fite
9 By: Senators Irvin, Bledsoe, Caldwell, Collins-Smith, J. Cooper, J. Dismang, J. English, Flippo, J.
10 Hendren, Hester, Hickey, J. Hutchinson, B. Johnson, Rapert, Rice, G. Stubblefield, E. Williams
11

For An Act To Be Entitled

12
13 AN ACT TO REGULATE THE USE OF CERTAIN DRUGS USED TO
14 INDUCE AN ABORTION; TO DEFINE CERTAIN TERMS; TO
15 PROVIDE FOR DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS FOR ABORTIONS
16 PERFORMED IN VIOLATION OF THIS ACT; TO PROVIDE A
17 CIVIL CAUSE OF ACTION FOR VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT; TO
18 REQUIRE PHYSICIAN REPORTING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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22 TO REGULATE THE USE OF CERTAIN DRUGS USED
23 TO INDUCE AN ABORTION; AND TO PROVIDE FOR
24 DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS FOR ABORTIONS
25 PERFORMED IN VIOLATION OF THIS ACT.
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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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30 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 16, Subchapter 6, is
31 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

32 20-16-603. Drug-induced abortions – Procedures – Penalties – Causes of
33 action.

34 (a) As used in this section:

35 (1) "Abortion" means the use or prescription of an instrument,
36 medicine, drug, or another substance or device to terminate the pregnancy of



1 a woman known to be pregnant with an intention other than to increase the
2 probability of a live birth, to preserve the life or health of the child
3 after live birth, or to remove a dead unborn child who died in utero as the
4 result of natural causes, accidental trauma, or a criminal assault on the
5 pregnant woman or her unborn child, and that causes the premature termination
6 of the pregnancy;

7 (2) "Attempt to perform or induce an abortion" means an act or
8 an omission of a statutorily required act that, under the circumstances as
9 the physician believes them to be, constitutes a substantial step toward the
10 performance or induction of an abortion in violation of this section;

11 (3) "Mifepristone" means the specific abortion-inducing drug
12 regimen known as RU-486; and

13 (4) "Physician" means a natural person licensed to practice
14 medicine in the State of Arkansas under the Arkansas Medical Practices Act, §
15 17-95-201 et seq., § 17-95-301 et seq., and § 17-95-401 et seq.

16 (b)(1) When mifepristone or another drug or chemical is used to induce
17 an abortion, the initial administration of the drug or chemical shall occur
18 in the same room and in the physical presence of the physician who
19 prescribed, dispensed, or otherwise provided the drug or chemical to the
20 patient.

21 (2) The physician who induces the abortion, or a person acting
22 on behalf of the physician who induces the abortion, shall make all
23 reasonable efforts to ensure that the patient returns twelve (12) to eighteen
24 (18) days after the administration or use of mifepristone or another drug or
25 chemical for a follow-up visit so that the physician can confirm that the
26 pregnancy has been terminated and can assess the patient's medical condition.

27 (3) A brief description of the efforts made to comply with this
28 section, including the date, time, and identification by name of the person
29 making the efforts, shall be included in the patient's medical record.

30 (c) This section does not affect telemedicine practice that does not
31 involve the use of mifepristone or another drug or chemical to induce an
32 abortion.

33 (d)(1) If the Arkansas State Medical Board finds that a physician
34 licensed by the board has violated the rules of professional conduct by
35 performing an abortion in violation of this subchapter, the board shall
36 revoke the physician's license.

1 (2) A penalty shall not be assessed against the woman upon whom
2 the abortion is performed or attempted to be performed.

3 (e)(1)(A) A woman who receives an abortion, the father of the unborn
4 child who was the subject of the abortion if the father was married to the
5 woman who received the abortion at the time the abortion was performed, or a
6 maternal grandparent of the unborn child may maintain an action against the
7 person who performed the abortion in violation of this section for actual and
8 punitive damages.

9 (B) A woman who attempts to receive an abortion in
10 violation of this section may maintain an action against the person who
11 attempted to perform the abortion for actual and punitive damages.

12 (2)(A) A cause of action for injunctive relief against a person
13 who has knowingly or recklessly violated this section may be brought by the
14 woman who receives or attempts to receive an abortion in violation of this
15 section, by a prosecuting attorney, or by the Attorney General.

16 (B) An injunction under subdivision (e)(2)(A) of this
17 section shall prevent the abortion provider from performing further abortions
18 in violation of this section.

19 (f)(1) If a judgment is rendered in favor of the plaintiff who
20 prevails in an action under subsection (e) of this section, the court shall
21 award reasonable attorney's fees and costs in favor of the plaintiff against
22 the defendant.

23 (2) If a judgment is rendered in favor of the defendant and the
24 court finds that the plaintiff's suit was frivolous and brought in bad faith,
25 the court shall order the plaintiff to pay reasonable attorney's fees to the
26 defendant.

27 (g) A pregnant woman who obtains or possesses mifepristone or another
28 drug or chemical used for the purpose of inducing an abortion to terminate
29 her pregnancy shall not be subject to an action under subsection (e) of this
30 section.

31 (h)(1) In a civil or criminal proceeding or action brought under this
32 section, the court shall determine if the anonymity of a woman who receives
33 or attempts to receive an abortion shall be preserved from public disclosure
34 without her consent.

35 (2)(A) Upon determining that the woman's anonymity shall be
36 preserved, the court shall issue an order to the parties, witnesses, and

1 counsel and shall direct the sealing of the record and exclusion of
 2 individuals from courtrooms or hearing rooms to the extent necessary to
 3 safeguard the woman's identity from public disclosure.

4 (B) An order under subdivision (h)(2)(A) of this section
 5 shall be accompanied by specific written findings explaining:

6 (i) Why the anonymity of the woman should be
 7 preserved from public disclosure;

8 (ii) Why the order is essential to that end;

9 (iii) How the order is narrowly tailored to serve
 10 that interest; and

11 (iv) Why no reasonable, less restrictive alternative
 12 exists.

13 (C) In the absence of written consent of the woman who
 14 receives or attempts to receive an abortion, anyone other than a public
 15 official who brings an action under subsection (e) of this section shall
 16 bring the action under a pseudonym.

17 (D) This subsection does not conceal the identity of the
 18 plaintiff or of a witness from the defendant.

19 (i) This section does not create or recognize a right to abortion.

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