

SENATE BILL 1180

By Hensley

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,  
Chapter 15, Part 2, relative to abortion.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Infants Protection Act."

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-15-201(c)(3), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 15, Part 2, is amended by adding the following new sections:

**39-15-211.**

(a) As used in this section and in § 39-15-212:

(1) "Abortion" means the use of any instrument, medicine, drug, or any other substance or device with intent to terminate the pregnancy of a woman known to be pregnant with intent other than to increase the probability of a live birth, to preserve the life or health of the child after live birth, or to remove a dead fetus;

(2) "Gestational age" or "gestation" means the age of an unborn child as calculated from the first day of the last menstrual period of a pregnant woman;

(3) "Medical emergency" means a condition that, in the physician's good faith medical judgment, based upon the facts known to the physician at the time, so complicates the woman's pregnancy as to necessitate the immediate performance or inducement of an abortion in order to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or to avoid a serious risk of the substantial and irreversible

impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman that delay in the performance or inducement of the abortion would create;

(4) "Pregnant" means the human female reproductive condition, of having a living unborn child within her body throughout the entire embryonic and fetal stages of the unborn child from fertilization to full gestation and childbirth;

(5) "Serious risk of the substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function" means any medically diagnosed condition that so complicates the pregnancy of the woman as to directly or indirectly cause the substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function. Such conditions include pre-eclampsia, inevitable abortion, and premature rupture of the membranes and, depending upon the circumstances, may also include, but are not limited to, diabetes and multiple sclerosis, but does not include any condition relating to the woman's mental health;

(6) "Unborn child" means an individual living member of the species, homo sapiens, throughout the entire embryonic and fetal stages of the unborn child from fertilization to full gestation and childbirth; and

(7) "Viable" and "viability" mean that stage of fetal development when the unborn child is capable of sustained survival outside of the womb, with or without medical assistance.

(b)

(1) No person shall purposely perform or induce, or attempt to perform or induce, an abortion upon a pregnant woman when the unborn child is viable.

(2) It shall be an affirmative defense to any criminal prosecution brought under subdivision (b)(1) that the abortion was performed or induced, or attempted to be performed or induced, by a licensed physician and that the physician determined, in the physician's good faith medical judgment, based upon the facts known to the physician at the time, that either:

(A) The unborn child was not viable; or

(B) The abortion was necessary to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or to prevent serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman. No abortion shall be deemed authorized under this subdivision (b)(2)(B) if performed on the basis of a claim or a diagnosis that the woman will engage in conduct which would result in her death or substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function or for any reason relating to her mental health.

(3) Except in a medical emergency that prevents compliance with the viability determination required by § 39-15-212, the affirmative defense set forth in subdivision (b)(2)(A) does not apply unless the physician who performs or induces, or attempts to perform or induce, the abortion makes the viability determination required by § 39-15-212 and, based upon that determination, certifies in writing that, in such physician's good faith medical judgment, the unborn child is not viable.

(4) Except in a medical emergency that prevents compliance with one (1) or more of the following conditions, the affirmative defense set forth in subdivision (b)(2)(B) does not apply unless the physician who performs or induces, or attempts to perform or induce, the abortion complies with each of the following conditions:

(A) The physician who performs or induces, or attempts to perform or induce, the abortion certifies in writing that, in such physician's good faith medical judgment, based upon the facts known to the physician at the time, the abortion is necessary to prevent the death of

the pregnant woman or to prevent a serious risk of the substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman;

(B) Another physician who is not professionally related to the physician who intends to perform or induce the abortion certifies in writing that, in such physician's good faith medical judgment, based upon the facts known to the physician at the time, the abortion is necessary to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or to prevent a serious risk of the substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman;

(C) The physician performs or induces, or attempts to perform or induce, the abortion in a hospital or other healthcare facility that has appropriate neonatal services for premature infants;

(D) The physician who performs or induces, or attempts to perform or induce, the abortion terminates or attempts to terminate the pregnancy in the manner that provides the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive, unless that physician determines, in such physician's good faith medical judgment, based upon the facts known to the physician at the time, that the termination of the pregnancy in that manner poses a significantly greater risk of the death of the pregnant woman or a significantly greater risk of the substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman than would other available methods of abortion;

(E) The physician certifies in writing the available methods or techniques considered and the reasons for choosing the method or technique employed; and

(F) The physician who performs or induces, or attempts to perform or induce, the abortion has arranged for the attendance in the same room in which the abortion is to be performed or induced, or attempted to be performed or induced, at least one (1) other physician who is to take control of, provide immediate medical care for, and take all reasonable steps necessary to preserve the life and health of the unborn child immediately upon the child's complete expulsion or extraction from the pregnant woman.

(5) For purposes of this section, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that an unborn child of at least twenty-four (24) weeks gestational age is viable.

(6) A violation of subdivision (b)(1) is a Class C felony.

(7) The appropriate licensing authority shall revoke the medical license of a physician who violates subdivision (b)(1).

(8) A pregnant woman upon whom an abortion is performed or induced, or attempted to be performed or induced, in violation of subdivision (b)(1) is not guilty of violating subdivision (b)(1), or of attempting to commit or conspiring to commit a violation of subdivision (b)(1).

(c) Neither this section nor § 39-15-112 repeals or limits § 39-15-202, § 39-15-209, or any other law that restricts or regulates the performance of an abortion or attempt to procure a miscarriage.

**39-15-212.**

(a) Except in a medical emergency that prevents compliance with this subsection (a), no physician shall perform or induce, or attempt to perform or induce, an abortion upon a pregnant woman after the beginning of the twentieth week of pregnancy, as measured by gestational age, unless, prior to the performance or inducement of the

abortion, or the attempt to perform or induce the abortion, the physician determines, in the physician's good faith medical judgment, that the unborn child is not viable, and the physician makes that determination after performing a medical examination of the pregnant woman and after assessing gestational age, weight, bi-parietal diameter, or other factors that a reasonable physician, in making a determination as to whether an unborn child is viable, would consider.

(b) Except in a medical emergency that prevents compliance with this subsection (b), no physician shall perform or induce, or attempt to perform or induce, an abortion upon a pregnant woman after the beginning of her twentieth week of pregnancy (as measured by gestational age), without first entering the determination made in subsection (a) and the associated findings of the medical examination and assessment described in subsection (a) in the medical record of the pregnant woman.

(c) A violation of subsection (a) or (b) is a Class A misdemeanor.

(d) The appropriate licensing authority shall suspend, for a period of not less than six (6) months, the medical license of a physician who violates subsection (a) or (b).

SECTION 4. If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, then the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act shall be severable.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.