SB34 INTRODUCED

1 YMDL2N-1
2 By Senators Figures, Singleton, Stewart, Coleman-Madison,
3 Coleman, Smitherman, Hatcher
4 RFD: Judiciary
5 First Read: 07-Mar-23
6
SYNOPSIS:

Under The Alabama Human Life Protection Act, effective November 15, 2019, a person who performs or attempts to perform an abortion, except under certain circumstances to prevent serious health risks to the mother, is guilty of a felony.

This bill would repeal The Alabama Human Life Protection Act.

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to abortion; to provide legislative findings; and to repeal The Alabama Human Life Protection Act, now appearing as Chapter 23H of Title 26, Code of Alabama 1975, providing for criminal penalties for the performance of an abortion or attempted abortion.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares the following:

(1) The Alabama Human Life Protection Act, enacted during the 2019 Regular Session, makes it a felony to perform an abortion or to attempt an abortion; except for an exception
relating to the health of the mother, the act provides no
other exception to its prohibitions.

(2) This law has been criticized as one of the
strictest abortion laws in the country and even religious
conservatives have questioned the lack of reasonable
exceptions to the prohibition; for example, televangelist Pat
Robertson has labeled the law as "extreme" and concluded that
Alabama has "gone too far."

(3) Former President Donald Trump also questioned the
reach of this law; he tweeted, "I am strongly Pro-Life, with
the three exceptions - Rape, Incest and protecting the Life of
the mother - the same position taken by Ronald Reagan."

(4) The overreach of this law has served as the
catalyst for a tarnished view of our state, which will
negatively impact tourism and our economy; numerous groups
have called for a boycott of our state and other states and
localities have chosen not to authorize the spending of state
resources on travel to our state.

(5) Proponents of the law have conceded that the state
is headed for a long and expensive court battle to defend the
law, which will, in turn, unnecessarily cost the taxpayers of
this state.

(6) Rather than spending state funds on unnecessary and
unfruitful legal battles, our resources would be better served
to address the immediate and urgent needs of Alabamians in
this state, including the following:

a. The infant mortality crisis; in 2017, Alabama had
the fourth worst infant mortality rate in the country: 7.4
deaths per 1,000 live births.

b. The rural health care crisis in this state; a lack of access to health care in rural areas, access to hospitals, and retention of physicians perpetuates poverty, preventable diseases and illnesses, and is a significant contributing factor to Alabama's 49th ranking in the nation for life expectancy rates.

c. The health insurance crisis; this state's failure to expand Medicaid has left more than 140,000 Alabamians uninsured and without access to basic health care.

(b) The Alabama Human Life Protection Act, now appearing as Chapter 23H of Title 26, Code of Alabama 1975, providing criminal penalties for the performance of an abortion or attempted abortion, is repealed.

Section 2. This act shall become effective immediately following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.