

# HOUSE BILL No. 5879

March 16, 2006, Introduced by Reps. Vander Veen, Taub, Emmons, Mortimer and Amos and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend 1978 PA 368, entitled  
"Public health code,"  
by amending section 17015 (MCL 333.17015), as amended by 2002 PA  
685.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 17015. (1) Subject to subsection (10), a physician shall  
2 not perform an abortion otherwise permitted by law without the  
3 patient's informed written consent, given freely and without  
4 coercion.

5           (2) For purposes of this section **AND SECTION 17015A:**

6           (a) "Abortion" means the intentional use of an instrument,  
7 drug, or other substance or device to terminate a woman's pregnancy  
8 for a purpose other than to increase the probability of a live

1 birth, to preserve the life or health of the child after live  
2 birth, or to remove a dead fetus. Abortion does not include the use  
3 or prescription of a drug or device intended as a contraceptive.

4 (b) "Fetus" means an individual organism of the species homo  
5 sapiens in utero.

6 (c) "Local health department representative" means a person  
7 employed by, or under contract to provide services on behalf of, a  
8 local health department who meets 1 or more of the licensing  
9 requirements listed in subdivision (f).

10 (d) "Medical emergency" means that condition which, on the  
11 basis of the physician's good faith clinical judgment, so  
12 complicates the medical condition of a pregnant woman as to  
13 necessitate the immediate abortion of her pregnancy to avert her  
14 death or for which a delay will create serious risk of substantial  
15 and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

16 (e) "Medical service" means the provision of a treatment,  
17 procedure, medication, examination, diagnostic test, assessment, or  
18 counseling, including, but not limited to, a pregnancy test,  
19 ultrasound, pelvic examination, or an abortion.

20 (f) "Qualified person assisting the physician" means another  
21 physician or a physician's assistant licensed under this part or  
22 part 175, a fully licensed or limited licensed psychologist  
23 licensed under part 182, a professional counselor licensed under  
24 part 181, a registered professional nurse or a licensed practical  
25 nurse licensed under part 172, or a social worker registered under  
26 part 185.

27 (g) "Probable gestational age of the fetus" means the

1 gestational age of the fetus at the time an abortion is planned to  
2 be performed.

3 (h) "Provide the patient with a physical copy" means  
4 confirming that the patient accessed the internet website described  
5 in subsection (5) and received a printed valid confirmation form  
6 from the website and including that form in the patient's medical  
7 record or giving a patient a copy of a required document by 1 or  
8 more of the following means:

9 (i) In person.

10 (ii) By registered mail, return receipt requested.

11 (iii) By parcel delivery service that requires the recipient to  
12 provide a signature in order to receive delivery of a parcel.

13 (iv) By facsimile transmission.

14 (3) Subject to subsection (10), a physician or a qualified  
15 person assisting the physician shall do all of the following not  
16 less than 24 hours before that physician performs an abortion upon  
17 a patient who is a pregnant woman:

18 (a) Confirm that, according to the best medical judgment of a  
19 physician, the patient is pregnant, and determine the probable  
20 gestational age of the fetus.

21 (b) Orally describe, in language designed to be understood by  
22 the patient, taking into account her age, level of maturity, and  
23 intellectual capability, each of the following:

24 (i) The probable gestational age of the fetus she is carrying.

25 (ii) Information about what to do and whom to contact should  
26 medical complications arise from the abortion.

27 (iii) Information about how to obtain pregnancy prevention

1 information through the department of community health.

2 (c) Provide the patient with a physical copy of the written  
3 summary described in subsection (11)(b) that corresponds to the  
4 procedure the patient will undergo and is provided by the  
5 department of community health. If the procedure has not been  
6 recognized by the department, but is otherwise allowed under  
7 Michigan law, and the department has not provided a written summary  
8 for that procedure, the physician shall develop and provide a  
9 written summary that describes the procedure, any known risks or  
10 complications of the procedure, and risks associated with live  
11 birth and meets the requirements of subsection (11)(b)(iii) through  
12 (vii).

13 (d) Provide the patient with a physical copy of a medically  
14 accurate depiction, illustration, or photograph and description of  
15 a fetus supplied by the department of community health pursuant to  
16 subsection (11)(a) at the gestational age nearest the probable  
17 gestational age of the patient's fetus.

18 (e) Provide the patient with a physical copy of the prenatal  
19 care and parenting information pamphlet distributed by the  
20 department of community health under section 9161.

21 **(F) PERFORM THE COERCION AND INTIMIDATION SCREENING AS**  
22 **REQUIRED UNDER SECTION 17015A(1) AND, IF APPLICABLE, COMPLY WITH**  
23 **THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SECTION 17015A(2) AND (3).**

24 (4) The requirements of subsection (3) may be fulfilled by the  
25 physician or a qualified person assisting the physician at a  
26 location other than the health facility where the abortion is to be  
27 performed. The requirement of subsection (3)(a) that a patient's

1 pregnancy be confirmed may be fulfilled by a local health  
2 department under subsection (18). The requirements of subsection  
3 (3) cannot be fulfilled by the patient accessing an internet  
4 website other than the internet website described in subsection (5)  
5 that is maintained through the department.

6 (5) The requirements of subsection (3)(c) through (e) may be  
7 fulfilled by a patient accessing the internet website maintained  
8 and operated through the department and receiving a printed, valid  
9 confirmation form from the website that the patient has reviewed  
10 the information required in subsection (3)(c) through (e) at least  
11 24 hours before an abortion being performed on the patient. The  
12 website shall not require any information be supplied by the  
13 patient. The department shall not track, compile, or otherwise keep  
14 a record of information that would identify a patient who accesses  
15 this website. The patient shall supply the valid confirmation form  
16 to the physician or qualified person assisting the physician to be  
17 included in the patient's medical record to comply with this  
18 subsection.

19 (6) Subject to subsection (10), before obtaining the patient's  
20 signature on the acknowledgment and consent form, a physician  
21 personally and in the presence of the patient shall do all of the  
22 following:

23 (a) Provide the patient with the physician's name, **CONFIRM**  
24 **THAT THE COERCION AND INTIMIDATION SCREENING REQUIRED UNDER SECTION**  
25 **17015A WAS PERFORMED**, and inform the patient of her right to  
26 withhold or withdraw her consent to the abortion at any time before  
27 performance of the abortion.

1 (b) Orally describe, in language designed to be understood by  
2 the patient, taking into account her age, level of maturity, and  
3 intellectual capability, each of the following:

4 (i) The specific risk, if any, to the patient of the  
5 complications that have been associated with the procedure the  
6 patient will undergo, based on the patient's particular medical  
7 condition and history as determined by the physician.

8 (ii) The specific risk of complications, if any, to the patient  
9 if she chooses to continue the pregnancy based on the patient's  
10 particular medical condition and history as determined by a  
11 physician.

12 (7) To protect a patient's privacy, the information set forth  
13 in subsection (3) and subsection (6) shall not be disclosed to the  
14 patient in the presence of another patient.

15 (8) Before performing an abortion on a patient who is a  
16 pregnant woman, a physician or a qualified person assisting the  
17 physician shall do all of the following:

18 (a) Obtain the patient's signature on the acknowledgment and  
19 consent form described in subsection (11)(c) confirming that she  
20 has received the information required under subsection (3).

21 (b) Provide the patient with a physical copy of the signed  
22 acknowledgment and consent form described in subsection (11)(c).

23 (c) Retain a copy of the signed acknowledgment and consent  
24 form described in subsection (11)(c) and, if applicable, a copy of  
25 the pregnancy certification form completed under subsection  
26 (18)(b), in the patient's medical record.

27 (9) This subsection does not prohibit notifying the patient

1 that payment for medical services will be required or that  
2 collection of payment in full for all medical services provided or  
3 planned may be demanded after the 24-hour period described in this  
4 subsection has expired. A physician or an agent of the physician  
5 shall not collect payment, in whole or in part, for a medical  
6 service provided to or planned for a patient before the expiration  
7 of 24 hours from the time the patient has done either or both of  
8 the following, except in the case of a physician or an agent of a  
9 physician receiving capitated payments or under a salary  
10 arrangement for providing those medical services:

11 (a) Inquired about obtaining an abortion after her pregnancy  
12 is confirmed and she has received from that physician or a  
13 qualified person assisting the physician the information required  
14 under subsection (3)(c) and (d).

15 (b) Scheduled an abortion to be performed by that physician.

16 (10) If the attending physician, utilizing his or her  
17 experience, judgment, and professional competence, determines that  
18 a medical emergency exists and necessitates performance of an  
19 abortion before the requirements of subsections (1), (3), and (6)  
20 can be met, the physician is exempt from the requirements of  
21 subsections (1), (3), and (6), may perform the abortion, and shall  
22 maintain a written record identifying with specificity the medical  
23 factors upon which the determination of the medical emergency is  
24 based.

25 (11) The department of community health shall do each of the  
26 following:

27 (a) Produce medically accurate depictions, illustrations, or

1 photographs of the development of a human fetus that indicate by  
2 scale the actual size of the fetus at 2-week intervals from the  
3 fourth week through the twenty-eighth week of gestation. Each  
4 depiction, illustration, or photograph shall be accompanied by a  
5 printed description, in nontechnical English, Arabic, and Spanish,  
6 of the probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the  
7 fetus at that particular state of gestational development.

8 (b) Subject to subdivision (g), develop, draft, and print, in  
9 nontechnical English, Arabic, and Spanish, written standardized  
10 summaries, based upon the various medical procedures used to abort  
11 pregnancies, that do each of the following:

12 (i) Describe, individually and on separate documents, those  
13 medical procedures used to perform abortions in this state that are  
14 recognized by the department.

15 (ii) Identify the physical complications that have been  
16 associated with each procedure described in subparagraph (i) and  
17 with live birth, as determined by the department. In identifying  
18 these complications, the department shall consider the annual  
19 statistical report required under section 2835(6), and shall  
20 consider studies concerning complications that have been published  
21 in a peer review medical journal, with particular attention paid to  
22 the design of the study, and shall consult with the federal centers  
23 for disease control, the American college of obstetricians and  
24 gynecologists, the Michigan state medical society, or any other  
25 source that the department determines appropriate for the purpose.

26 (iii) State that as the result of an abortion, some women may  
27 experience depression, feelings of guilt, sleep disturbance, loss



1 of interest in work or sex, or anger, and that if these symptoms  
 2 occur and are intense or persistent, professional help is  
 3 recommended.

4 (iv) State that not all of the complications listed in  
 5 subparagraph (ii) may pertain to that particular patient and refer  
 6 the patient to her physician for more personalized information.

7 (v) Identify services available through public agencies to  
 8 assist the patient during her pregnancy and after the birth of her  
 9 child, should she choose to give birth and maintain custody of her  
 10 child.

11 (vi) Identify services available through public agencies to  
 12 assist the patient in placing her child in an adoptive or foster  
 13 home, should she choose to give birth but not maintain custody of  
 14 her child.

15 (vii) Identify services available through public agencies to  
 16 assist the patient and provide counseling should she experience  
 17 subsequent adverse psychological effects from the abortion.

18 (c) Develop, draft, and print, in nontechnical English,  
 19 Arabic, and Spanish, an acknowledgment and consent form that  
 20 includes only the following language above a signature line for the  
 21 patient:

22 "I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby authorize Dr.  
 23 \_\_\_\_\_ ("the physician") and any assistant designated  
 24 by the physician to perform upon me the following operation(s) or  
 25 procedure(s):

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
 27 (Name of operation(s) or procedure(s))

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I understand that I am approximately \_\_\_\_\_ weeks pregnant. I consent to an abortion procedure to terminate my pregnancy. I understand that I have the right to withdraw my consent to the abortion procedure at any time prior to performance of that procedure. **I UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS ILLEGAL FOR ANYONE TO COERCE OR INTIMIDATE ME INTO SEEKING AN ABORTION.** I acknowledge that at least 24 hours before the scheduled abortion I have received a physical copy of each of the following:

(a) A medically accurate depiction, illustration, or photograph of a fetus at the probable gestational age of the fetus I am carrying.

(b) A written description of the medical procedure that will be used to perform the abortion.

(c) A prenatal care and parenting information pamphlet. If any of the above listed documents were transmitted by facsimile, I certify that the documents were clear and legible. I acknowledge that the physician who will perform the abortion has orally described all of the following to me:

(i) The specific risk to me, if any, of the complications that have been associated with the procedure I am scheduled to undergo.

(ii) The specific risk to me, if any, of the complications if I choose to continue the pregnancy.

I acknowledge that I have received all of the following information:

(d) Information about what to do and whom to contact in the event that complications arise from the abortion.

1 (e) Information pertaining to available pregnancy related  
2 services.

3 I have been given an opportunity to ask questions about the  
4 operation(s) or procedure(s). I certify that I have not been  
5 required to make any payments for an abortion or any medical  
6 service before the expiration of 24 hours after I received the  
7 written materials listed in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) above, or  
8 24 hours after the time and date listed on the confirmation form if  
9 paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) were viewed from the state of Michigan  
10 internet website.".

11 (d) Make available to physicians through the Michigan board of  
12 medicine and the Michigan board of osteopathic medicine and  
13 surgery, and any person upon request the copies of medically  
14 accurate depictions, illustrations, or photographs described in  
15 subdivision (a), the standardized written summaries described in  
16 subdivision (b), the acknowledgment and consent form described in  
17 subdivision (c), the prenatal care and parenting information  
18 pamphlet described in section 9161, and the pregnancy certification  
19 form described in subdivision (f).

20 (e) The department shall not develop written summaries for  
21 abortion procedures under subdivision (b) that utilize medication  
22 that has not been approved by the United States food and drug  
23 administration for use in performing an abortion.

24 (f) Develop, draft, and print a certification form to be  
25 signed by a local health department representative at the time and  
26 place a patient has a pregnancy confirmed, as requested by the  
27 patient, verifying the date and time the pregnancy is confirmed.

1 (g) Develop and maintain an internet website that allows a  
2 patient considering an abortion to review the information required  
3 in subsection (3)(c) through (e). After the patient reviews the  
4 required information, the department shall assure that a  
5 confirmation form can be printed by the patient from the internet  
6 website that will verify the time and date the information was  
7 reviewed. A confirmation form printed under this subdivision  
8 becomes invalid 14 days after the date and time printed on the  
9 confirmation form.

10 (12) A physician's duty to inform the patient under this  
11 section does not require disclosure of information beyond what a  
12 reasonably well-qualified physician licensed under this article  
13 would possess.

14 (13) A written consent form meeting the requirements set forth  
15 in this section and signed by the patient is presumed valid. The  
16 presumption created by this subsection may be rebutted by evidence  
17 that establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence, that consent  
18 was obtained through fraud, negligence, deception,  
19 misrepresentation, coercion, or duress.

20 (14) A completed certification form described in subsection  
21 (11)(f) that is signed by a local health department representative  
22 is presumed valid. The presumption created by this subsection may  
23 be rebutted by evidence that establishes, by a preponderance of the  
24 evidence, that the physician who relied upon the certification had  
25 actual knowledge that the certificate contained a false or  
26 misleading statement or signature.

27 (15) This section does not create a right to abortion.

1 (16) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a  
2 person shall not perform an abortion that is prohibited by law.

3 (17) If any portion of this act or the application of this act  
4 to any person or circumstances is found invalid by a court, that  
5 invalidity does not affect the remaining portions or applications  
6 of the act that can be given effect without the invalid portion or  
7 application, if those remaining portions are not determined by the  
8 court to be inoperable.

9 (18) Upon a patient's request, each local health department  
10 shall:

11 (a) Provide a pregnancy test for that patient to confirm the  
12 pregnancy as required under subsection (3)(a) and determine the  
13 probable gestational stage of the fetus. The local health  
14 department need not comply with this subdivision if the  
15 requirements of subsection (3)(a) have already been met.

16 (b) If a pregnancy is confirmed, ensure that the patient is  
17 provided with a completed pregnancy certification form described in  
18 subsection (11)(f) at the time the information is provided.

19 (19) The identity and address of a patient who is provided  
20 information or who consents to an abortion pursuant to this section  
21 is confidential and is subject to disclosure only with the consent  
22 of the patient or by judicial process.

23 (20) A local health department with a file containing the  
24 identity and address of a patient described in subsection (19) who  
25 has been assisted by the local health department under this section  
26 shall do both of the following:

27 (a) Only release the identity and address of the patient to a

1 physician or qualified person assisting the physician in order to  
2 verify the receipt of the information required under this section.

3 (b) Destroy the information containing the identity and  
4 address of the patient within 30 days after assisting the patient  
5 under this section.

6 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect  
7 unless Senate Bill No.\_\_\_\_ or House Bill No. 5880(request no.  
8 03684'05\*) of the 93rd Legislature is enacted into law.