

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 604

Short Title: Women and Children's Protection Act of 2015. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Randleman, Krawiec, Daniel (Primary Sponsors); Brock, Cook, Hise, Newton, Sanderson, Soucek, and Tarte.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 30, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT FACILITIES WHERE ABORTIONS ARE PERFORMED MUST COMPLY WITH CERTAIN CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, TO REQUIRE PHYSICIANS WHO PERFORM ABORTIONS AFTER THE SIXTEENTH AND TWENTIETH WEEK OF PREGNANCY TO PROVIDE CERTAIN INFORMATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, TO INCLUDE IN THE LIST OF AGGRAVATING FACTORS THAT THE DEFENDANT KNEW OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT A MINOR WAS WITNESSING THE CRIME BY SIGHT OR HEARING, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ASSIST WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STATE-OF-THE-ART PERINATAL RESOURCE CENTER AT UNC HOSPITALS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 14-45.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 14-45.1. When abortion not unlawful.

...

(a1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall annually inspect any clinic, including ambulatory surgical facilities, certified by the Department as a suitable facility for the performance of abortions. No clinic certified by the Department of Health and Human Services shall employ a person who is less than 18 years of age. Any clinic certified by the Department of Health and Human Services shall have a written agreement between the clinic and a hospital for the hospital to accept the transfer of patients who are in need of emergency care.

...

(b1) A physician who advises, procures, or causes a miscarriage or abortion after the sixteenth week of a woman's pregnancy shall record all of the following: the method used by the physician to determine the probable gestational age of the unborn child at the time the procedure is to be performed; the results of the methodology, including the measurements of the unborn child; and an ultrasound image of the unborn child that depicts the measurements. The physician shall provide this information, including the ultrasound image, to the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to G.S. 14-45.1(c).

A physician who procures or causes a miscarriage or abortion after the twentieth week of a woman's pregnancy shall record the findings and analysis on which the physician based the determination that continuance of the pregnancy would threaten the life or gravely impair the health of the woman and shall provide that information to the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to G.S. 14-45.1(c).



1 The information provided under this subsection shall be for statistical purposes only and the
2 confidentiality of the patient shall be protected.

3 (c) The Department of Health and Human Services shall prescribe and collect on an
4 annual basis, from hospitals or ~~clinics~~ clinics, including ambulatory surgical facilities, where
5 abortions are performed, ~~such representative samplings of~~ statistical summary reports
6 concerning the medical and demographic characteristics of the abortions provided for in this
7 ~~section~~ section, including the information described in subsection (b1) of this section as it shall
8 deem to be in the public interest. Hospitals or clinics where abortions are performed shall be
9 responsible for providing these statistical summary reports to the Department of Health and
10 Human Services. The reports shall be for statistical purposes only and the confidentiality of the
11 patient relationship shall be protected.

12 (d) The requirements of ~~G.S. 130-43~~ G.S. 130A-114 are not applicable to abortions
13 performed pursuant to this section.

14 (e) ~~Nothing in this section shall require a physician licensed to practice medicine in~~
15 ~~North Carolina, any~~ No physician, nurse, or any other health care provider who shall state an
16 objection to abortion on moral, ethical, or religious ~~grounds,~~ grounds shall be required to
17 perform or participate in medical procedures which result in an abortion. The refusal of a
18 physician, nurse, or health care provider to perform or participate in these medical procedures
19 shall not be a basis for damages for the refusal, or for any disciplinary or any other
20 recriminatory action against the physician, nurse, or health care provider. For purposes of this
21 section, the phrase "health care provider" shall have the same meaning as defined under
22 G.S. 90-410(1).

23 "

24 **SECTION 2.** Perinatal Resource Center at UNC Chapel Hill. – There is
25 appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North
26 Carolina the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 2015-2016 fiscal year to
27 be used for the planning and implementation of a perinatal resource care program at UNC
28 Hospitals to develop a state-of-the-art perinatal resource center to serve families with
29 complications detected by prenatal diagnosis.

30 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 15A-1340.16(d) is amended by adding a new subdivision to
31 read:

32 "(13a) The defendant knew or reasonably should have known that the offense was
33 being witnessed by sight or hearing, by a person under the age of 18 who
34 was not involved in the commission of the offense."

35 **SECTION 4.** If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, the
36 invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect
37 without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are
38 severable. If any provision of this act is temporarily or permanently restrained or enjoined by
39 judicial order, this act shall be enforced as though such restrained or enjoined provisions had
40 not been adopted, provided that whenever such temporary or permanent restraining order or
41 injunction is stayed, dissolved, or otherwise ceases to have effect, such provisions shall have
42 full force and effect.

43 **SECTION 5.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective January 1, 2016.
44 G.S. 14-45.1(b1) and G.S. 14-45.1(c) as enacted by Section 1 of this act apply to abortions
45 performed or attempted on or after January 1, 2016. Section 2 of this act becomes effective July
46 1, 2015. Section 3 of this act becomes effective December 1, 2015, and applies to offenses
47 committed on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.