

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 138

BY REPRESENTATIVE LANDRY

ABORTION: Requests a study of state laws relative to abortion

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A RESOLUTION

To urge and request that the chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice form a subcommittee to receive testimony from certain parties with relevant expertise for the purpose of studying the current status of Louisiana laws that have a potential impact of criminally or civilly penalizing individuals who miscarry, experience a stillbirth, seek an abortion, or attempt to self-manage an abortion.

WHEREAS, in 2017, approximately eight hundred sixty-two thousand three hundred twenty abortions were provided in clinical settings in the United States. In 2017, nine thousand nine hundred twenty abortions were provided in Louisiana, constituting one and two-tenths percent of all abortions in the United States; and

WHEREAS, medical providers provide abortion services through medication abortions or surgical abortion procedures; and

WHEREAS, historically, the prohibition against abortion has often resulted in severe medical problems or death for women who seek to induce their own abortions or seek out unsafe alternatives to invoke the abortion; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana has numerous laws that may civilly or criminally penalize an individual who seeks to have an abortion or attempts to self-manage an abortion; and

WHEREAS, according to medical professionals who testified to the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice, it is not possible for emergency

1 medical providers to definitively determine if a woman presenting with emergency  
2 pregnancy complications is experiencing a miscarriage or abortion; and

3 WHEREAS, a study is needed to determine if current Louisiana laws may  
4 unintentionally or intentionally implicate individuals who miscarry, experience a stillbirth,  
5 seek out an abortion, or self-manage an abortion.

6 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the  
7 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the chairman of the House Committee  
8 on the Administration of Criminal Justice to form a subcommittee comprised of members  
9 of the committee to solicit input, advice, and recommendations from certain parties with  
10 relevant expertise on the potential civil and criminal implication of Louisiana laws on  
11 individuals who miscarry, experience a stillbirth, seek out an abortion, or attempt to self-  
12 manage an abortion.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee established by this Resolution  
14 shall report to the House of Representatives its findings and any recommendations to resolve  
15 the issues discovered no later than February 1, 2023, in a format to be determined by the  
16 subcommittee established by this Resolution.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee established by this Resolution  
18 shall solicit input, advice, and recommendations from representatives of the following  
19 organizations and professions with relevant knowledge regarding the potential penalization  
20 of abortion:

- 21 (1) Louisiana Department of Health.
- 22 (2) Louisiana Department of Justice.
- 23 (3) Louisiana State Medical Society.
- 24 (4) Louisiana Right to Life.
- 25 (5) Lift Louisiana.
- 26 (6) Obstetrics or gynecology medical providers.
- 27 (7) Emergency medical providers.
- 28 (8) Local public defenders.
- 29 (9) Local district attorneys.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
2 secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and the attorney general of the Louisiana  
3 Department of Justice.

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the subcommittee established by this Resolution  
5 shall submit one print copy and one electronic copy of any report produced pursuant to this  
6 Resolution to the David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:772.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HR 138 Original

2022 Regular Session

Landry

Requests the chairman of the House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice form a subcommittee comprised of members of the committee to solicit input, advice, and recommendations from individuals with relevant expertise on the potential civil and criminal penalization of individuals who seek out an abortion or seek to self-manage an abortion.