

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 727

BY REPRESENTATIVES IVEY AND HODGES

ABORTION: Requires provision of psychological health information prior to abortion

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 40:1299.35.5.2, relative to consent to abortion; to require provision of
3 information concerning risks of psychiatric and psychological harms associated with
4 abortion; to require the Department of Health and Hospitals to develop and publish
5 certain Internet-based resources relative to abortion; to provide for a task force on
6 pre-abortion counseling; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 40:1299.35.5.2 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §1299.35.5.2. Psychological health information required prior to abortion; task force

10 A. Prior to undergoing an elective abortion as defined in R.S. 40:1299.35.1,
11 and as a condition for consent to the abortion to be deemed voluntary and informed,
12 a physician shall obtain a signed statement on a form to be prepared by and obtained
13 from the Department of Health and Hospitals and kept within the woman's medical
14 record for a period of at least seven years, stating that the woman has been given
15 information on resources that she can review to learn the increased risks of
16 psychiatric and psychological harms associated with abortion.

17 B. The Department of Health and Hospitals shall create printable Internet-
18 based resources that include telephone numbers and links to Internet websites of
19 nonprofit organizations that provide confidential helplines to give women free access
20 to professional and lay counselors who are trained and compassionate in helping

1 those who are considering abortion or who are experiencing psychiatric or
2 psychological distress after an abortion.

3 C. The governor shall appoint a task force to assist the Department of Health
4 and Hospitals in the preparation of the printed and Internet materials provided for in
5 this Section. The task force shall be comprised of the following members:

6 (1) One psychologist licensed by the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of
7 Psychologists.

8 (2) One physician who is board certified as a psychiatrist and licensed by the
9 Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.

10 (3) One layperson who provides pre-abortion or post-abortion counseling in
11 association with a nonprofit organization that does not counsel for or provide
12 abortion.

13 Section 2. The Louisiana State Law Institute is hereby authorized and requested to
14 redesignate the number of any Section of statute amended or enacted by this Act in a manner
15 that comports with the provisions of the Act which originated as House Bill No. ____ of this
16 2014 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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)]

Ivey

HB No. 727

Abstract: Requires provision of psychological health information prior to abortion.

Proposed law requires that prior to undergoing an elective abortion, and as a condition for consent to the abortion to be deemed voluntary and informed, a physician shall obtain a signed statement on a form to be prepared by and obtained from the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) and kept within the woman's medical record for a period of at least seven years, stating that the woman has been given information on resources that she can review to learn the increased risks of psychiatric and psychological harms associated with abortion.

Proposed law requires DHH to create printable Internet-based resources that include telephone numbers and links to websites of nonprofit organizations that provide confidential helplines to give women free access to professional and lay counselors who are trained and compassionate in helping those who are considering abortion or who are experiencing psychiatric or psychological distress after an abortion.

Proposed law provides that the governor shall appoint a task force to assist DHH in the preparation of the printed and Internet materials provided for in proposed law. Provides that the task force shall be comprised of the following members:

- (1) One psychologist licensed by the La. State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.
- (2) One physician who is board certified as a psychiatrist and licensed by the La. State Board of Medical Examiners.
- (3) One layperson who provides pre-abortion or post-abortion counseling in association with a nonprofit organization that does not counsel for or provide abortion.

(Adds R.S. 40:1299.35.5.2)