

Senate Bill 529

By: Senators Pearson of the 51st, Hawkins of the 49th and Unterman of the 45th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to crimes and
2 offenses, so as to specify certain acts that constitute criminal abortion; to provide for certain
3 criminal and civil remedies for criminal abortion; to provide for notification of certain
4 investigations; to provide for definitions; to provide for prohibitions on the circumstances
5 under which an abortion may be performed; to revise the definition of the term "racketeering
6 activity" to include certain conduct relating to criminal abortion; to provide for related
7 matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
8 other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

11 Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to crimes and offenses, is
12 amended by revising subsection (b) of Code Section 16-12-140, relating to criminal abortion,
13 and adding new subsections to read as follows:

14 "(b) A person commits the offense of criminal abortion when that person performs an
15 abortion:

16 (1) With the intent to prevent an unborn child from being born based upon the race,
17 color, or gender of the unborn child or the race or color of either parent of that child;

18 (2) With the knowledge that the pregnant woman is seeking the abortion based upon the
19 race, color, or gender of the unborn child or the race or color of either parent of that child;

20 (3) With the knowledge that the pregnant woman is seeking the abortion as a result of
21 coercion; or

22 (4) In violation of any of the following: Code Section 15-11-112, subsection (b) or (c)
23 of Code Section 16-12-141, Code Section 31-9A-3, or Code Section 31-9A-5.

24 (c) A person convicted of the offense of criminal abortion shall be punished by
25 imprisonment for not less than one nor more than ten years; provided, however, that a
26 person convicted of a violation of paragraph (4) of subsection (b) of this Code section shall
27 be guilty of a misdemeanor.

28 (d) Any woman upon whom an abortion is performed in violation of this Code section may
 29 recover in a civil action from the person who engaged in such violation all damages
 30 available to her under Georgia law for any torts.

31 (e) The right to recover for the death of an unborn child resulting from a violation of this
 32 Code section shall be as provided for in Code Sections 51-4-4 and 19-7-1, with all
 33 references to 'child' therein deemed to include 'unborn child.'

34 (f) As used in this Code section, the term 'unborn child' shall have the same meaning as
 35 set forth in Code Section 16-5-80.

36 (g) Any woman upon whom an abortion is performed shall not be held criminally or
 37 civilly liable as a result of such abortion for any violation of this Code section or for
 38 solicitation or for conspiracy to violate this Code section.

39 (h) Immediate notification of any criminal investigation initiated pursuant to this Code
 40 section shall be made to the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

41 (i) This Code section shall be subject to all applicable laws governing the confidentiality
 42 of a patient's personal medical information."

43 **SECTION 2.**

44 Said title is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 16-12-141, relating
 45 to when abortion is legal and the filing of certificate of abortion by performing physician, as
 46 follows:

47 "(a) Nothing in this article shall be construed to prohibit an abortion performed by a
 48 physician duly licensed to practice medicine and surgery pursuant to Chapter 34 of Title
 49 43, based upon his or her best clinical judgment that an abortion is necessary, except that
 50 subsection (b) of Code Section 16-12-140 is a prohibition on the circumstances under
 51 which an abortion may be performed which shall apply to both duly licensed physicians
 52 and laypersons, and Code Section 16-12-144 is a prohibition of a particular abortion
 53 method which shall apply to both duly licensed physicians and laypersons."

54 **SECTION 3.**

55 Said title is further amended by revising subparagraph (A) of paragraph (9) of Code Section
 56 16-14-3, relating to definitions related to racketeer influenced and corrupt organizations, by
 57 striking the "or" at the end of division (xxxix), by striking the period and inserting a
 58 semicolon at the end of division (xxxx), and by adding a new divisions to read as follows:

59 "(xxxxi) Code Section 16-12-140, relating to criminal abortion."

60 **SECTION 4.**

61 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law
62 without such approval and shall apply to conduct on and after that date.

63 **SECTION 5.**

64 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.