

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 22

Short Title: Woman's Right to Know Addition/Ashley's Law. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Pittman, Speciale, and Kidwell (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Judiciary, if favorable, Health, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

February 6, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT DIRECTING THAT CERTAIN INFORMATION BE PROVIDED TO WOMEN CONSIDERING A MEDICAL ABORTION IN ORDER TO SATISFY INFORMED CONSENT REQUIREMENTS; AND REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO MAKE THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON ITS INTERNET WEB SITE.

Whereas, medical abortion utilizing mifepristone has been available in the United States since 2000; and

Whereas, in 2014, thirty-one percent (31%) of non-hospital induced abortions were medical abortions; and

Whereas, some women who take mifepristone, a progesterone receptor antagonist, in order to terminate their pregnancies, change their minds and desire to stop the medical abortion process; and

Whereas, Issues in Law & Medicine, Volume 33, Number 1, 2018, details an observational case series of 754 patients who attempted to reverse the medical abortion process after taking mifepristone but before taking the second drug in the protocol, misoprostol; and

Whereas, that observational case series led to the conclusion that intramuscular progesterone and high-dose oral progesterone were the most effective in reversing the medical abortion process for the women participating in the observational case series, with reversal rates of sixty-four percent (64%) and sixty-eight percent (68%), respectively; and

Whereas, there was no apparent increased risk of birth defects due to the use of progesterone to reverse the effects of mifepristone; Now, therefore:

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 90-21.82 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(2a) In addition to the information required by subdivision (2) of this section, the following information must be provided to a woman before a medical abortion:

a. Immediately prior to administering the drug mifepristone, the physician or qualified health professional shall inform the woman that (i) it is still possible to discontinue a medical abortion by not taking the prescribed misoprostol and taking progesterone to reverse the effects of the mifepristone and (ii) information on how, where, and from whom women can obtain assistance in discontinuing a medical



1 abortion is available on the Department of Health and Human Services'
2 Internet Web site.
3 b. Immediately prior to administering the drug misoprostol, the physician
4 or qualified professional shall provide medical proof to the woman that
5 fetal death has occurred."

6 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 90-21.84 reads as rewritten:

7 **"§ 90-21.84. Internet Web site.**

8 The Department shall develop and maintain a stable Internet Web site to provide the
9 information described ~~under~~ in sub-subdivision a. of subdivision (2a) of G.S. 90-21.82 and
10 G.S. 90-21.83. No information regarding who accesses the Web site shall be collected or
11 maintained. The Department shall monitor the Web site on a regular basis to prevent and correct
12 tampering."

13 **SECTION 3.** On or before July 1, 2019, the Department of Health and Human
14 Services shall update its Internet Web site to provide information on how, where, and from whom
15 women can obtain assistance in discontinuing the medical abortion process, as required by
16 G.S. 90-21.84, as amended by this act.

17 **SECTION 4.** Section 3 of this act is effective when it becomes law. The remainder
18 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2019.