

1 ~~injury, including a life-endangering condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself;~~
2 ~~provided, that no other medical procedure would suffice for that purpose.~~

3 **23-4.12-4. Civil remedies.**

4 ~~(a) The woman upon whom a partial birth abortion has been performed in violation of §~~
5 ~~23-4.12-2, the father of the fetus or infant, and the maternal grandparents of the fetus or infant,~~
6 ~~and the maternal grandparents of the fetus or infant if the mother has not attained the age of~~
7 ~~eighteen (18) years at the time of the abortion, may obtain appropriate relief in a civil action,~~
8 ~~unless the pregnancy resulted from the plaintiff's criminal conduct or the plaintiff consented to~~
9 ~~the abortion.~~

10 ~~(b) The relief shall include:~~

11 ~~(1) Money damages for all injuries, psychological and physical, occasioned by the~~
12 ~~violation of this chapter; and~~

13 ~~(2) Statutory damages equal to three (3) times the cost of the partial birth abortion.~~

14 ~~(c) If judgment is rendered in favor of the plaintiff in an action described in this section,~~
15 ~~the court shall also render judgment for a reasonable attorney's fee in favor of the plaintiff against~~
16 ~~the defendant. If the judgment is rendered in favor of the defendant and the court finds that the~~
17 ~~plaintiff's suit was frivolous and brought in bad faith, the court shall also render judgment for a~~
18 ~~reasonable attorney's fee in favor of the defendant against the plaintiff.~~

19 **23-4.12-5. Penalty.**

20 ~~(a) Performance of a partial birth abortion deliberately and intentionally is a violation of~~
21 ~~this chapter and shall be a felony.~~

22 ~~(b) A woman upon whom a partial birth abortion is performed may not be prosecuted~~
23 ~~under this chapter for violating this chapter or any provision this chapter, or for conspiracy to~~
24 ~~violate this chapter or any provision this chapter.~~

25 **23-4.12-6. Severability.**

26 ~~(a) If any one or more provisions, clauses, phrases, or words of § 23-4.12-3 or the~~
27 ~~application of that section to any person or circumstance is found to be unconstitutional, it is~~
28 ~~declared to be inseverable.~~

29 ~~(b) If any one or more provisions, sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases or~~
30 ~~words of the remaining sections or the application of them to any person or circumstance is found~~
31 ~~to be unconstitutional, they are declared to be severable and the balance of the chapter shall~~
32 ~~remain effective notwithstanding the unconstitutionality. The legislature declares that it would~~
33 ~~have passed this chapter, and each provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or~~
34 ~~words, with the exception of § 23-4.12-3, irrespective of the fact that any one or more provisions,~~

1 ~~sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, or words be declared unconstitutional.~~

2 SECTION 2. Title 23 of the General Laws entitled "HEALTH AND SAFETY" is hereby
3 amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

4 CHAPTER 4.13

5 PARTIAL - BIRTH ABORTION ACT

6 **23-4.13-1. Definitions.**

7 For purposes of this chapter:

8 (1) "Partial-birth abortion" means an abortion in which the person performing the
9 abortion:

10 (i) Deliberately and intentionally vaginally delivers a living fetus until, in the case of a
11 head-first presentation, the entire fetal head is outside the body of the mother, or, in the case of
12 breech presentation, any part of the fetal trunk past the navel is outside the body of the mother,
13 for the purpose of performing an overt act that the person knows will kill the partially delivered
14 living fetus; and

15 (ii) Performs the overt act, other than completion of delivery, that kills the partially
16 delivered living fetus.

17 (2) "Physician" means a doctor of medicine or osteopathy legally authorized to practice
18 medicine and surgery in the state, or any other individual legally authorized by the state to
19 perform abortions; provided, however, that any individual who is not a physician or not otherwise
20 legally authorized by the state to perform abortions, but who nevertheless directly performs a
21 partial-birth abortion, shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter.

22 **23-4.13-2. Prohibition of partial-birth abortions.**

23 Any physician who knowingly performs a partial-birth abortion and thereby kills a
24 human fetus is guilty of a felony. A female upon whom a partial-birth abortion is performed may
25 not be prosecuted under this chapter.

26 **23-4.13-3. License suspension or revocation and fines.**

27 If the offender is a professionally licensed person, in addition to any other penalty
28 imposed by law for the offense, the state board of medical licensure and discipline may assess a
29 civil fine, after proper notice and an opportunity to be heard, against a licensee for unprofessional
30 conduct in an amount not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the first violation,
31 not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the second violation, and not to exceed one
32 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the third violation and, for each subsequent violation, an
33 amount in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) sufficient to deter future violations.
34 Additionally their license shall be subject to suspension or revocation in accordance with

1 procedures provided under chapter 37 of title 5. All fines assessed and collected under this section
2 shall be remitted to the state treasurer. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer
3 shall deposit the entire amount in the state treasury to the credit of the state general fund.

4 **23-4.13-4. Affirmative defense.**

5 In any proceeding pursuant to this chapter relating to the performance of a partial-birth
6 abortion, it is an affirmative defense that the defendant performed the partial-birth abortion if it
7 was necessary to save the life of a mother whose life is endangered by a physical disorder,
8 physical illness, or physical injury, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or
9 arising from the pregnancy itself.

10 **23-4.13-5. Review by state medical board.**

11 (a) A defendant accused of an offense under this chapter may seek a hearing before the
12 state board of medical licensure and discipline on whether the physician's conduct was necessary
13 to save the life of the mother whose life was endangered by a physical disorder, physical illness,
14 or physical injury, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the
15 pregnancy itself.

16 (b) The finding on that issue are admissible on that issue at the trial of the defendant.
17 Upon a motion of the defendant, the court shall delay the beginning of the trial for not more than
18 thirty (30) days to permit such a hearing to take place.

19 **23-4.13-6. Civil remedies.**

20 (a) The woman upon whom a partial-birth abortion has been performed, the parent of a
21 minor upon whom a partial-birth abortion has been performed, and the father of the unborn child
22 subject to a partial-birth abortion that has been performed, unless the pregnancy resulted from the
23 plaintiff's criminal conduct, may, in a civil action, obtain appropriate relief from the person who
24 performed the partial-birth abortion unlawfully under this chapter with knowledge that it was
25 such an abortion or with reckless disregard for whether it was such an abortion.

26 (b) Such relief shall include:

27 (1) Money damages for all injuries, psychological and physical, occasioned by the
28 violation of this chapter; and

29 (2) Statutory damages equal to three (3) times the cost of the partial-birth abortion.

30 (c) If judgment is rendered in favor of the plaintiff in an action described in this section,
31 the court shall also render judgment for a reasonable attorneys' fee in favor of the plaintiff against
32 the defendant.

33 (d) No person is estopped from recovery in such a suit on the grounds that either the
34 plaintiff or the person upon whom the partial-birth abortion was performed gave consent to the

1 abortion. Any contract of indemnification for such damages is void.

2 (e) No damages or attorneys' fees may be assessed against the female on whom a partial-
3 birth abortion is performed.

4 **23-4.13-7. Provision for anonymity of female.**

5 In every proceeding or action pursuant to this chapter, the court shall rule whether the
6 anonymity of any female upon whom a partial-birth abortion is performed should be preserved
7 from public disclosure if she does not give her consent to such disclosure. The court, upon motion
8 or sua sponte, shall make such a ruling and, upon determining that her anonymity should be
9 preserved, shall issue orders to the parties, witnesses and counsel, and shall direct the sealing of
10 the record and exclusion of individuals from courtrooms or hearing rooms, to the extent necessary
11 to safeguard her identity from public disclosure. Each such order shall be accompanied by a
12 specific written findings explaining why the anonymity of the female should be preserved from
13 public disclosure, why the order is essential to that end, how the order is narrowly tailored to
14 serve that interest, and why no reasonable less restrictive alternative exists. In the absence of
15 written consent of the female upon whom a partial-birth abortion has been performed, anyone,
16 other than a public official, who brings an action under this section shall do so under a
17 pseudonym. This section may not be construed to conceal the identity of the plaintiff or of
18 witnesses from the defendant.

19 **23-4.13-8. Construction.**

20 (a) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as creating or recognizing a right to
21 abortion.

22 (b) It is not the intention of this chapter to make lawful an abortion that is currently
23 unlawful.

24 (c) The adoption of this chapter does not repeal or modify, by implication or otherwise,
25 any provision of state law not expressly amended by this chapter.

26 **23-4.13-9. Severability.**

27 If any provision of this chapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is
28 held invalid, such invalidity does not affect the provisions or applications of this chapter which
29 can be given effect without the invalid provision or application and to this end, the provisions of
30 this chapter are declared to be severable.

31 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC005302
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO HEALTH AND SAFETY - PARTIAL - BIRTH ABORTION

1 This act would amend and revise the definitions and penalties pertaining to partial-birth
2 abortions. The act would further provide that any physician who knowingly performs a partial-
3 birth abortion would be guilty of a felony and may be liable for civil penalties and fines.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC005302
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