



Proposition 115 Prohibit Abortions After 22 Weeks

The ballot title below is a summary drafted by the professional staff of the offices of the secretary of state, the attorney general, and the legal staff for the general assembly for ballot purposes only. The ballot title will not appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes. The text of the measure that will appear in the Colorado Revised Statutes below was drafted by the proponents of the initiative. The initiated measure is included on the ballot as a proposed change to current law because the proponents gathered the required amount of petition signatures.

Ballot Title:

Shall there be a change to the Colorado Revised Statutes concerning prohibiting an abortion when the probable gestational age of the fetus is at least twenty-two weeks, and, in connection therewith, making it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine to perform or attempt to perform a prohibited abortion, except when the abortion is immediately required to save the life of the pregnant woman when her life is physically threatened, but not solely by a psychological or emotional condition; defining terms related to the measure including “probable gestational age” and “abortion,” and excepting from the definition of “abortion” medical procedures relating to miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy; specifying that a woman on whom an abortion is performed may not be charged with a crime in relation to a prohibited abortion; and requiring the Colorado medical board to suspend for at least three years the license of a licensee whom the board finds performed or attempted to perform a prohibited abortion?

Text of Measure:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO:

SECTION 1. IN COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, **ADD** PART 9 TO ARTICLE 6 OF TITLE 18 AS FOLLOWS:

Part 9 LATE ABORTIONS PROHIBITED

18-6-901. Declaration of the People.

(1) THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO FIND AND DECLARE THAT:

(a) CURRENTLY, IN THE STATE OF COLORADO AN ABORTION CAN BE PERFORMED AT ANY TIME DURING PREGNANCY.

(b) THIS INITIATIVE WOULD PROHIBIT AN ABORTION AFTER 22 WEEKS GESTATIONAL AGE OF THE FETUS.

18-6-902. Definitions. AS USED IN THIS PART 9:

(1) “ABORTION” MEANS THE ACT OF USING OR PRESCRIBING ANY INSTRUMENT, MEDICINE, DRUG, OR ANY OTHER SUBSTANCE, DEVICE, OR MEANS WITH THE INTENT TO TERMINATE THE PREGNANCY OF A WOMAN KNOWN TO BE PREGNANT OR WITH THE INTENT TO KILL THE UNBORN CHILD OF A WOMAN KNOWN TO BE PREGNANT. SUCH USE, PRESCRIPTION, OR MEANS IS NOT AN ABORTION IF DONE WITH THE INTENT TO:

(a) SAVE THE LIFE OR PRESERVE THE HEALTH OF THE EMBRYO OR FETUS;

(b) REMOVE A DEAD EMBRYO OR FETUS CAUSED BY MISCARRIAGE; OR

(c) REMOVE AN ECTOPIC PREGNANCY.



Titles and Text

(2) “GESTATIONAL AGE” MEANS THE TIME THAT HAS ELAPSED FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE WOMAN’S LAST MENSTRUAL PERIOD.

(3) “PROBABLE GESTATIONAL AGE” MEANS WHAT, IN THE JUDGMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN USING BEST MEDICAL PRACTICES, WILL WITH REASONABLE PROBABILITY BE THE GESTATIONAL AGE OF THE UNBORN CHILD AT THE TIME AN ABORTION IS PLANNED TO BE PERFORMED.”

(4) “TWENTY-TWO WEEKS” MEANS TWENTY-TWO WEEKS, ZERO DAYS GESTATIONAL AGE.

18-6-903. Abortion after 22 weeks gestational age prohibited.

(1) **UNLAWFUL CONDUCT.** NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN 18-6-903 (3), IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO INTENTIONALLY OR RECKLESSLY PERFORM OR ATTEMPT TO PERFORM AN ABORTION ON ANY OTHER PERSON IF THE PROBABLE GESTATIONAL AGE OF THE FETUS IS AT LEAST 22 WEEKS.

(2) **ASSESSMENT OF GESTATIONAL AGE.** A PHYSICIAN PERFORMING OR ATTEMPTING AN ABORTION SHALL FIRST MAKE A DETERMINATION OF THE PROBABLE GESTATIONAL AGE. IN MAKING SUCH A DETERMINATION, THE PHYSICIAN SHALL MAKE SUCH INQUIRIES OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN AND PERFORM OR CAUSE TO BE PERFORMED SUCH MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND TESTS AS A REASONABLY PRUDENT PHYSICIAN, KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE CASE AND THE MEDICAL CONDITIONS INVOLVED, WOULD CONSIDER NECESSARY TO MAKE AN ACCURATE DETERMINATION OF THE GESTATIONAL AGE.

(3) **EXCEPTION.** IF, IN THE REASONABLE MEDICAL JUDGEMENT OF THE PHYSICIAN, AN ABORTION IS IMMEDIATELY REQUIRED TO SAVE THE LIFE OF A PREGNANT WOMAN, RATHER THAN AN EXPEDITED DELIVERY OF THE LIVING FETUS, AND IF THE PREGNANT WOMAN’S LIFE IS THREATENED BY A PHYSICAL DISORDER, PHYSICAL ILLNESS, OR PHYSICAL INJURY, INCLUDING A LIFE-ENDANGERING PHYSICAL CONDITION CAUSED BY OR ARISING FROM THE PREGNANCY ITSELF, BUT NOT INCLUDING PSYCHOLOGICAL OR EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS, SUCH AN ABORTION IS NOT UNLAWFUL. IN SUCH A SITUATION, A PHYSICIAN MAY REASONABLY RELY UPON AN ASSESSMENT OF GESTATIONAL AGE MADE BY ANOTHER PHYSICIAN INSTEAD OF ABIDING BY THE PROVISIONS OF 18-6-903 (2).

(4) **PENALTIES.** ANY PERSON WHO INTENTIONALLY OR RECKLESSLY PERFORMS OR PERFORMS OR ATTEMPTS TO PERFORM AN ABORTION IN VIOLATION OF THIS PART 9 IS GUILTY OF A CLASS 1 MISDEMEANOR BUT MAY ONLY BE SUBJECT TO PUNISHMENT BY FINE AND NOT BY JAIL TIME.

(5) **No CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR WOMEN.** A WOMAN ON WHOM AN ABORTION IS PERFORMED OR A PERSON WHO FILLS A PRESCRIPTION OR PROVIDES EQUIPMENT USED IN AN ABORTION DOES NOT VIOLATE THIS PART 9 AND CANNOT BE CHARGED WITH A CRIME IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

SECTION 2. IN COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, 12-240-121, ADD (1)(nn) AS FOLLOWS:

12-240-121. Unprofessional conduct-definitions. (1) “Unprofessional conduct” as used in this Article 240 means:

(nn) A VIOLATION OF SECTION 18-6-903.

SECTION 3. IN COLORADO REVISED STATUTES, 12-240-125, **ADD** (9.5) AS FOLLOWS:

12-240-125. Disciplinary action by board – immunity – rules.

(8.5) IF THE BOARD FINDS A LICENSEE COMMITTED UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN VIOLATION OF SECTION 12-240-121 (1)(nn), THE BOARD SHALL SUSPEND THE LICENSEE’S LICENSE FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS.



SECTION 4. Effective date-applicability-self-executing. (1) This act takes effect from and after the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the governor, and applies to offenses committed on or after said date.

(2) The provisions of this initiative are self-executing.