

146B.2 Determination of postfertilization age — certain abortions prohibited — exceptions — reporting requirements — penalties.

1. Except in the case of a medical emergency, in addition to compliance with the prerequisites of [chapter 146A](#), an abortion shall not be performed or be attempted to be performed unless the physician performing the abortion has first made a determination of the probable postfertilization age of the unborn child or relied upon such a determination made by another physician. In making such a determination, a physician shall make such inquiries of the pregnant woman and perform or cause to be performed such medical examinations and tests the physician considers necessary in making a reasonable medical judgment to accurately determine the postfertilization age of the unborn child.

2. a. A physician shall not perform or attempt to perform an abortion upon a pregnant woman when it has been determined, by the physician performing the abortion or by another physician upon whose determination that physician relies, that the probable postfertilization age of the unborn child is twenty or more weeks unless, in the physician's reasonable medical judgment, any of the following applies:

- (1) The pregnant woman has a condition which the physician deems a medical emergency.
- (2) The abortion is necessary to preserve the life of an unborn child.

b. If an abortion is performed under [this subsection](#), the physician shall terminate the human pregnancy in the manner which, in the physician's reasonable medical judgment, provides the best opportunity for an unborn child to survive, unless, in the physician's reasonable medical judgment, termination of the human pregnancy in that manner would pose a greater risk than any other available method of the death of the pregnant woman or of the substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function. A greater risk shall not be deemed to exist if it is based on a claim or diagnosis that the pregnant woman will engage in conduct which would result in the pregnant woman's death or in substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function.

3. A physician who performs or attempts to perform an abortion shall report to the department, on a schedule and in accordance with forms and rules adopted by the department, all of the following:

a. If a determination of probable postfertilization age of the unborn child was made, the probable postfertilization age determined and the method and basis of the determination.

b. If a determination of probable postfertilization age of the unborn child was not made, the basis of the determination that a medical emergency existed.

c. If the probable postfertilization age of the unborn child was determined to be twenty or more weeks, the basis of the determination of a medical emergency, or the basis of the determination that the abortion was necessary to preserve the life of an unborn child.

d. The method used for the abortion and, in the case of an abortion performed when the probable postfertilization age was determined to be twenty or more weeks, whether the method of abortion used was one that, in the physician's reasonable medical judgment, provided the best opportunity for an unborn child to survive or, if such a method was not used, the basis of the determination that termination of the human pregnancy in that manner would pose a greater risk than would any other available method of the death of the pregnant woman or of the substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function.

4. a. By June 30, annually, the department shall issue a public report providing statistics for the previous calendar year, compiled from the reports for that year submitted in accordance with [subsection 3](#). The department shall ensure that none of the information included in the public reports could reasonably lead to the identification of any woman upon whom an abortion was performed.

b. (1) A physician who fails to submit a report by the end of thirty days following the due date shall be subject to a late fee of five hundred dollars for each additional thirty-day period or portion of a thirty-day period the report is overdue.

(2) A physician required to report in accordance with [subsection 3](#) who has not submitted a report or who has submitted only an incomplete report more than one year following the due date, may, in an action brought in the manner in which actions are brought to enforce

[chapter 148](#), be directed by a court of competent jurisdiction to submit a complete report within a time period stated by court order or be subject to contempt of court.

(3) A physician who intentionally or recklessly falsifies a report required under [this section](#) is subject to a civil penalty of one hundred dollars.

5. Any medical facility in which a physician is authorized to perform an abortion shall implement written medical policies and procedures consistent with the requirements and prohibitions of [this chapter](#).

6. The department shall adopt rules to implement [this section](#).

[2017 Acts, ch 108, §3, 7](#)

Referred to in [§146B.3](#)