

HB 1148 -- INFORMED CONSENT FOR ABORTIONS

SPONSOR: Hicks

Currently, a physician must provide a woman with the opportunity to view an active ultrasound and hear the heartbeat, if it is audible, of the unborn child at least 24 hours prior to an abortion.

This bill requires a physician to conduct and review with the woman an active ultrasound and allow the woman to hear the heartbeat, if it is audible, of the unborn child at least 24 hours prior to an abortion.

If an ultrasound cannot be conducted at the abortion facility, the woman seeking an abortion must be provided with a geographically indexed list of health care providers, facilities, and clinics that perform ultrasounds, including those that offer the services free of charge. She must submit verification from the provider, facility, or clinic that conducted the ultrasound specifying the time and date the ultrasound was conducted, that it was reviewed with the woman, and that she was allowed to view the ultrasound images and hear the heartbeat of the unborn child if the heartbeat is audible. She must also be given a copy of the ultrasound image.

An abortion cannot be performed or induced until the woman obtaining the abortion certifies in writing that an active ultrasound has been conducted and reviewed with her, allowing her to view an image of the unborn child and hear the heartbeat if the heartbeat is audible.

A victim of rape or incest is exempt from these provisions if the victim has reported the crime to the proper law enforcement authority.