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By: Delegates Cox, Arikan, Beitzel, Boteler, Impallaria, McComas, Otto, Parrott, and Reilly

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019 Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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## **Health – Maryland Fetal Heartbeat Protection Act**

FOR the purpose of repealing certain provisions of law related to prohibiting the State from interfering with the decision of a woman to terminate a pregnancy under certain circumstances, authorizing the Maryland Department of Health to adopt certain regulations, and limiting the liability for civil damages or criminal penalties for physicians under certain circumstances; requiring a physician to inform a woman of certain information under certain circumstances; prohibiting a physician from performing an abortion under certain circumstances until after a certain time period; authorizing the Department to adopt certain regulations; prohibiting a physician from performing or inducing or attempting to perform or induce an abortion before the physician makes a certain determination; requiring a physician to use a certain procedure in determining whether a fetus has a detectable heartbeat; requiring a physician to make the fetal heartbeat audible for the pregnant woman to hear under certain circumstances; establishing certain penalties for certain violations of this Act; authorizing a physician to perform or induce an abortion under certain circumstances; requiring a physician who performs or induces an abortion under certain circumstances to include certain notations or documents in the pregnant woman's medical records; requiring a physician to keep certain notations and documents for a certain time period; providing that a physician is not in violation of this Act under certain circumstances; providing that a pregnant woman on whom an abortion is performed in violation of this Act is not subject to certain penalties; authorizing a certain woman to file a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction under certain circumstances; providing that a woman who prevails in a certain action shall receive certain damages, court costs, and attorney's fees; providing that a court shall award court costs and attorney's fees to a defendant in a certain action under certain circumstances; providing for the application of certain provisions of this Act; providing that the Attorney General may apply to certain courts for certain relief under certain circumstances; authorizing a county prosecutor to apply for certain relief from certain courts under certain circumstances; defining certain



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$\frac{1}{2}$	terms; making the provisions of this Act severable; making conforming changes; and generally relating to fetal heartbeats and performing or inducing an abortion.
3 4 5 6 7	BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Health – General Section 20–207 Annotated Code of Maryland (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)
8 9 10 11 12	BY repealing Article – Health – General Section 20–209 Annotated Code of Maryland (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)
13 14 15 16 17	BY adding to Article – Health – General Section 20–209 through 20–212 Annotated Code of Maryland (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)
18	Preamble
19 20	WHEREAS, As many as 30% of natural pregnancies end in spontaneous miscarriage; and
21 22	WHEREAS, Fewer than 5% of all natural pregnancies end in spontaneous miscarriage after detection of fetal cardiac activity; and
23 24	WHEREAS, Over 90% of in vitro pregnancies survive the first trimester if cardiac activity is detected in the gestational sac; and
25 26	WHEREAS, Nearly 90% of in vitro pregnancies do not survive the first trimester where cardiac activity is not detected in the gestational sac; and
27 28	WHEREAS, Fetal heartbeat is a key medical predictor that an unborn human individual will reach live birth; and
29 30	WHEREAS, Cardiac activity begins at a biologically identifiable moment in time, normally when the fetal heart is formed in the gestational sac; and
31 32 33	WHEREAS, The State has legitimate interests from the outset of the pregnancy in protecting the health of the woman and the life of an unborn human individual who may be born; and

WHEREAS, In order to make an informed choice about whether to continue a

pregnancy, a pregnant woman has a legitimate interest in knowing the likelihood of the

- 1 human fetus surviving to full-term birth based on the presence of fetal cardiac activity;
- 2 now, therefore,
- 3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 4 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
- 5 Article Health General
- 6 20–207.
- 7 (A) In Part II of this subtitle [, the word "physician"] THE FOLLOWING WORDS
- 8 HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.
- 9 (B) "FETAL HEARTBEAT" MEANS CARDIAC ACTIVITY OR THE STEADY AND
- 10 REPETITIVE RHYTHMIC CONTRACTION OF THE FETAL HEART WITHIN THE
- 11 GESTATIONAL SAC, WHICH IS THE STRUCTURE THAT COMPRISES THE
- 12 EXTRAEMBRYONIC MEMBRANES THAT ENVELOP THE FETUS AND THAT IS TYPICALLY
- 13 VISIBLE BY ULTRASOUND AFTER THE FOURTH WEEK OF PREGNANCY.
- 14 (C) "GESTATIONAL AGE" MEANS THE AGE OF AN EMBRYO OR A FETUS AS
- 15 CALCULATED FROM THE FIRST DAY OF THE LAST MENSTRUAL PERIOD OF A
- 16 PREGNANT WOMAN.
- 17 (D) (1) "MEDICAL EMERGENCY" MEANS A CONDITION THAT, IN
- 18 REASONABLE MEDICAL JUDGMENT, COMPLICATES THE MEDICAL CONDITION OF A
- 19 PREGNANT WOMAN AND:
- 20 (I) REQUIRES THE IMMEDIATE ABORTION OF HER PREGNANCY
- 21 TO PREVENT HER DEATH WITHOUT FIRST DETERMINING WHETHER THERE IS A
- 22 DETECTABLE FETAL HEARTBEAT; OR
- 23 (II) FOR WHICH THE DELAY CAUSED BY DETERMINING
- 24 WHETHER THERE IS A DETECTABLE FETAL HEARTBEAT WILL CREATE SERIOUS RISK
- 25 OF SUBSTANTIAL AND IRREVERSIBLE PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT OF A MAJOR BODILY
- 26 FUNCTION, NOT INCLUDING PSYCHOLOGICAL OR EMOTIONAL CONDITIONS.
- 27 (2) "MEDICAL EMERGENCY" DOES NOT INCLUDE A CONDITION THAT
- 28 IS BASED ON A CLAIM OR DIAGNOSIS THAT THE WOMAN WILL ENGAGE IN CONDUCT
- 29 THAT SHE INTENDS TO RESULT IN HER DEATH OR IN SUBSTANTIAL AND
- 30 IRREVERSIBLE PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT OF A MAJOR BODILY FUNCTION.
- 31 **(E)** "PHYSICIAN" means any person, including a doctor of osteopathy, licensed to
- 32 practice medicine in the State of Maryland in compliance with the provisions of Title 14 of
- 33 the Health Occupations Article.

- 1 (F) "REASONABLE MEDICAL JUDGMENT" MEANS A MEDICAL JUDGMENT
  2 THAT WOULD BE MADE BY A REASONABLY PRUDENT PHYSICIAN, KNOWLEDGEABLE
  3 ABOUT THE CASE AND THE TREATMENT POSSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO THE
  4 MEDICAL CONDITIONS INVOLVED.
- 5 [20–209.
- 6 (a) In this section, "viable" means that stage when, in the best medical judgment 7 of the attending physician based on the particular facts of the case before the physician, 8 there is a reasonable likelihood of the fetus's sustained survival outside the womb.
- 9 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the State may not interfere with 10 the decision of a woman to terminate a pregnancy:
- 11 (1) Before the fetus is viable; or
- 12 (2) At any time during the woman's pregnancy, if:
- 13 (i) The termination procedure is necessary to protect the life or 14 health of the woman; or
- 15 (ii) The fetus is affected by genetic defect or serious deformity or 16 abnormality.
- 17 (c) The Department may adopt regulations that:
- 18 (1) Are both necessary and the least intrusive method to protect the life or 19 health of the woman; and
- 20 (2) Are not inconsistent with established medical practice.
- 21 (d) The physician is not liable for civil damages or subject to a criminal penalty 22 for a decision to perform an abortion under this section made in good faith and in the 23 physician's best medical judgment in accordance with accepted standards of medical 24 practice.]
- 25 **20–209.**
- 26 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO PREGNANCIES IN WHICH THE FETUS IS 27 ATTACHED TO THE PLACENTA WITHIN THE UTERUS OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN.
- 28 **(B)** A PHYSICIAN SHALL INFORM A WOMAN OF THE PROBABLE 29 GESTATIONAL AGE OF THE EMBRYO OR FETUS AT THE TIME AN ABORTION IS TO BE 30 PERFORMED ON THE WOMAN.

- 1 (C) (1) IF AN ULTRASOUND IS PERFORMED, THE PHYSICIAN MAY NOT 2 PERFORM AN ABORTION UNTIL **60** MINUTES HAVE ELAPSED FOLLOWING 3 COMPLETION OF THE ULTRASOUND.
- 4 (2) THE PHYSICIAN WHO IS TO PERFORM THE ABORTION SHALL INFORM THE WOMAN BEFORE AN ULTRASOUND PROCEDURE OF HER RIGHT TO VIEW THE ULTRASOUND IMAGE DURING OR AFTER THE ULTRASOUND PROCEDURE.
- 7 (D) IF THE PHYSICIAN WHO INTENDS TO PERFORM OR INDUCE AN 8 ABORTION ON A PREGNANT WOMAN HAS DETERMINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9 20–210 OF THIS SUBTITLE THAT THE FETUS HAS A DETECTABLE FETAL HEARTBEAT, 10 THE PHYSICIAN SHALL INFORM THE PREGNANT WOMAN:
- 11 (1) IN WRITING THAT THE FETUS HAS A FETAL HEARTBEAT; AND
- 12 (2) THE STATISTICAL PROBABILITY, ABSENT AN INDUCED ABORTION, 13 OF BRINGING THE FETUS TO TERM BASED ON THE GESTATIONAL AGE OF THE FETUS:
- 14 (I) TO THE BEST OF THE PHYSICIAN'S KNOWLEDGE; OR
- 15 (II) IF THE DEPARTMENT ADOPTS REGULATIONS UNDER 16 SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.
- 17 **(E)** THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS BASED ON AVAILABLE
  18 MEDICAL EVIDENCE ON THE STATISTICAL PROBABILITY OF BRINGING A FETUS WITH
  19 A DETECTABLE HEARTBEAT TO TERM BASED ON THE GESTATIONAL AGE OF THE
  20 FETUS.
- 21 **20–210.**

- 22 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO PREGNANCIES IN WHICH THE FETUS IS 23 ATTACHED TO THE PLACENTA WITHIN THE UTERUS OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN.
- 24 (B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (E) AND (F) OF THIS SECTION, A
  25 PHYSICIAN MAY NOT PERFORM OR INDUCE OR ATTEMPT TO PERFORM OR INDUCE
  26 AN ABORTION ON A PREGNANT WOMAN BEFORE A PHYSICIAN DETERMINES IN
  27 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION WHETHER THE FETUS HAS A
  28 DETECTABLE HEARTBEAT.
- 29 (C) TO DETERMINE WHETHER A FETUS HAS A DETECTABLE HEARTBEAT, A 30 PHYSICIAN SHALL:
  - (1) PERFORM AN OBSTETRIC ULTRASOUND ON THE PREGNANT

- 1 WOMAN, USING A METHOD THE PHYSICIAN AND PATIENT AGREE IS BEST UNDER THE
- 2 CIRCUMSTANCE;
- 3 (2) DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE ULTRASOUND, DISPLAY THE
- 4 ULTRASOUND IMAGES SO THAT THE PREGNANT WOMAN MAY VIEW THE IMAGES; AND
- 5 (3) RECORD IN THE PREGNANT WOMAN'S MEDICAL RECORD A
- 6 WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THE ULTRASOUND IMAGES OF THE FETUS'S CARDIAC
- 7 ACTIVITY, IF PRESENT AND VIEWABLE.
- 8 (D) IF AT LEAST 8 WEEKS HAVE OCCURRED AFTER FERTILIZATION, THE
- 9 PHYSICIAN WHO IS TO PERFORM OR INDUCE THE ABORTION SHALL:
- 10 (1) Inform the woman that it may be possible to make the
- 11 FETAL HEARTBEAT OF THE UNBORN CHILD AUDIBLE FOR THE PREGNANT WOMAN
- 12 TO HEAR;
- 13 (2) ASK THE WOMAN IF SHE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THE HEARTBEAT;
- 14 AND
- 15 (3) IF THE WOMAN WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THE HEARTBEAT, MAKE THE
- 16 EMBRYONIC OR FETAL HEARTBEAT OF THE UNBORN CHILD AUDIBLE FOR THE
- 17 PREGNANT WOMAN TO HEAR USING A METHOD THE PHYSICIAN AND PATIENT AGREE
- 18 IS BEST UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCE.
- 19 (E) (1) SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A
- 20 PHYSICIAN WHO PERFORMS OR INDUCES AN ABORTION IF THE PHYSICIAN
- 21 DETERMINES ACCORDING TO STANDARD MEDICAL PRACTICE THAT A MEDICAL
- 22 EMERGENCY EXISTS THAT PREVENTS COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
- 23 SECTION.

- 24 (2) (I) IF A PHYSICIAN PERFORMS OR INDUCES AN ABORTION ON A
- 25 PREGNANT WOMAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
- 26 THE PHYSICIAN SHALL MAKE A WRITTEN NOTATION IN THE PREGNANT WOMAN'S
- 27 MEDICAL RECORDS OF:
- 28 1. The physician's belief that a medical
- 29 EMERGENCY EXISTED; AND
- 30 THE MEDICAL CONDITION OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN
- 31 THAT PREVENTED COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.
  - (II) IF THE REASON FOR THE ABORTION WAS OTHER THAN TO

- 1 PRESERVE THE HEALTH OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN, THE WRITTEN NOTATION
- 2 REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL SPECIFY THAT
- 3 PRESERVING THE HEALTH OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN WAS NOT THE PURPOSE OF
- 4 THE ABORTION.
- 5 (III) THE PHYSICIAN SHALL MAINTAIN IN THE PHYSICIAN'S
- 6 RECORDS A COPY OF ANY WRITTEN NOTATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH
- 7 (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH FOR AT LEAST 7 YEARS AFTER THE DATE THE NOTATION
- 8 WAS MADE.
- 9 (F) A PHYSICIAN IS NOT IN VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION
- 10 **IF:**
- 11 (1) THE PHYSICIAN COMPLIES WITH SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS
- 12 SECTION; AND
- 13 (2) THE METHOD USED TO TEST FOR THE PRESENCE OF A FETAL
- 14 HEARTBEAT DOES NOT DETECT A HEARTBEAT.
- 15 (G) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE SALE, USE, PRESCRIPTION, OR
- 16 ADMINISTRATION OF A DRUG, DEVICE, OR CHEMICAL THAT IS DESIGNED TO
- 17 PREVENT FERTILIZATION.
- 18 (H) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND,
- 19 ON CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT OF UP TO 2 YEARS OR A FINE OF
- 20 **\$10,000** OR BOTH.
- 21 **20–211.**
- 22 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO PREGNANCIES IN WHICH THE FETUS IS
- 23 ATTACHED TO THE PLACENTA WITHIN THE UTERUS OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN.
- 24 (B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (D) OF THIS SECTION, A
- 25 PHYSICIAN MAY NOT PERFORM OR INDUCE OR ATTEMPT TO PERFORM OR INDUCE
- 26 AN ABORTION ON A PREGNANT WOMAN WITH THE INTENT OF CAUSING OR ABETTING
- 27 THE TERMINATION OF THE LIFE OF THE FETUS IF A FETAL HEARTBEAT HAS BEEN
- 28 DETECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 20–210 OF THIS SUBTITLE.
- 29 (C) (1) SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A
- 30 PHYSICIAN WHO PERFORMS OR INDUCES AN ABORTION IF, IN THE PHYSICIAN'S
- 31 REASONABLE MEDICAL JUDGMENT, THE ABORTION WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT
- 32 THE DEATH OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN OR TO PREVENT A SERIOUS RISK OF THE
- 33 SUBSTANTIAL AND IRREVERSIBLE IMPAIRMENT OF A MAJOR BODILY FUNCTION OF

## 1 THE PREGNANT WOMAN.

- 2 (2) (I) A PHYSICIAN WHO PERFORMS OR INDUCES AN ABORTION
- 3 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE IN A WRITTEN
- 4 DOCUMENT IN THE PREGNANT WOMAN'S MEDICAL RECORDS:
- 5 1. A DECLARATION THAT THE ABORTION IS NECESSARY,
- 6 IN THE PHYSICIAN'S REASONABLE MEDICAL JUDGMENT, TO PREVENT THE DEATH OF
- 7 THE PREGNANT WOMAN OR TO PREVENT A SERIOUS RISK OF THE SUBSTANTIAL AND
- 8 IRREVERSIBLE PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT OF A MAJOR BODILY FUNCTION OF THE
- 9 PREGNANT WOMAN; AND
- 10 **2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON:**
- 11 A. THE PREGNANT WOMAN'S MEDICAL CONDITION THAT
- 12 THE ABORTION ADDRESSED; AND
- B. THE MEDICAL RATIONALE FOR THE PHYSICIAN'S
- 14 CONCLUSION THAT THE ABORTION WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT THE DEATH OF
- 15 THE PREGNANT WOMAN OR TO PREVENT A SERIOUS RISK OF THE SUBSTANTIAL AND
- 16 IRREVERSIBLE IMPAIRMENT OF A MAJOR BODILY FUNCTION OF THE PREGNANT
- 17 WOMAN.
- 18 (II) IF THE REASON FOR THE ABORTION WAS OTHER THAN TO
- 19 PRESERVE THE HEALTH OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN, THE WRITTEN DOCUMENT
- 20 SHALL SPECIFY THAT PRESERVING THE HEALTH OF THE PREGNANT WOMAN WAS
- 21 NOT THE PURPOSE OF THE ABORTION.
- 22 (III) THE PHYSICIAN SHALL MAINTAIN A COPY OF THE
- 23 DOCUMENT IN THE PHYSICIAN'S RECORDS FOR AT LEAST 7 YEARS AFTER THE DATE
- 24 THE DOCUMENT WAS CREATED.
- 25 (D) A PHYSICIAN IS NOT IN VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION
- 26 IF THE PHYSICIAN ACTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 20–210 OF THIS SUBTITLE AND THE
- 27 METHOD USED TO TEST FOR THE PRESENCE OF A FETAL HEARTBEAT DOES NOT
- 28 DETECT A FETAL HEARTBEAT.
- 29 (E) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT THE SALE, USE, PRESCRIPTION, OR
- 30 ADMINISTRATION OF A DRUG, DEVICE, OR CHEMICAL THAT IS DESIGNED TO
- 31 PREVENT FERTILIZATION.
- 32 (F) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND,
- 33 ON CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT OF UP TO 2 YEARS OR A FINE OF

- 1 \$10,000 OR BOTH. 2 20-212. 3 (A) A PREGNANT WOMAN ON WHOM AN ABORTION IS PERFORMED OR INDUCED IN VIOLATION OF § 20–210 OR § 20–211 OF THIS SUBTITLE: 5 MAY NOT BE CRIMINALLY PROSECUTED FOR VIOLATING ANY OF 6 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE OR FOR ATTEMPTING TO COMMIT, CONSPIRING TO COMMIT, OR COMPLICITY IN COMMITTING A VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE 7 PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND 8 9 **(2)** IS NOT SUBJECT TO A CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PENALTY BASED ON THE ABORTION BEING PERFORMED OR INDUCED. 10 11 (B) A WOMAN MAY FILE A CIVIL ACTION IN A COURT OF COMPETENT 12 JURISDICTION IF: AN ABORTION WAS PERFORMED OR INDUCED ON THE WOMAN IN 13 VIOLATION OF § 20–210 OR § 20–211 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR 14 15 THE WOMAN WAS NOT PROVIDED THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER § 20–209 OF THIS SUBTITLE. 16 17 A WOMAN WHO PREVAILS IN AN ACTION FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE AWARDED BY THE COURT THE FOLLOWING TO BE PAID 18 19 BY THE PERSON WHO COMMITTED THE VIOLATION: 20**(1)** DAMAGES IN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO \$10,000 OR AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE COURT AFTER CONSIDERATION OF THE EVIDENCE; 2122 **(2)** COURT COSTS; AND 23**(3)** REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES. 24(D) **(1)** THE COURT SHALL AWARD COURT COSTS AND REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES TO A DEFENDANT IN AN ACTION FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF 25
- 27 (I) THE DEFENDANT PREVAILS; AND
  - (II) THE COURT FINDS THAT:

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THIS SECTION IF:

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- 1. COMMENCEMENT OF THE ACTION CONSTITUTES 2 FRIVOLOUS CONDUCT; AND
- 3 THE DEFENDANT WAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE 4 FRIVOLOUS CONDUCT.
- 5 (2) THE COURT'S FINDING OF FRIVOLOUSNESS DOES NOT MEET THE
  6 REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF THE CONCLUSION WAS
  7 BASED ON THE UNCONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE PROVISION THAT WAS ALLEGEDLY
  8 VIOLATED.

## 9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

- 10 (a) After the issuance of a decision by the United States Supreme Court overruling Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), the issuance of any other court order or judgment restoring, expanding, or clarifying the authority of states to prohibit or regulate abortion entirely or in part, or the effective date of an amendment to the Constitution of the United States restoring, expanding, or clarifying the authority of states to prohibit or regulate abortion entirely or in part, the Attorney General may apply to the appropriate State or federal court for either or both of the following:
- 17 (1) a declaration that any one or more of the statutory provisions specified 18 in this Act are constitutional; and
- 19 (2) a judgment or an order lifting an injunction against the enforcement of 20 any of the provisions of this Act.
- 21 (b) If the Attorney General fails to apply for the relief described in subsection (a) of this section within 30 days after an event described in subsection (a) of this section occurs, any county prosecutor may apply to the appropriate State or federal court for the relief described in subsection (a) of this section.
  - SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other application of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.
- SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2019.