

HOUSE BILL 1281

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HB 1271/25 – HGO

6lr2847

By: **Delegates Ciliberti, McComas, and Tomlinson**
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2026
Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health – Abortion – Ultrasound and Wait Time**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a qualified provider from performing or inducing an
4 abortion on a pregnant woman within a certain period of time after the woman
5 receives certain ultrasound imaging; establishing certain requirements related to
6 the performance of a certain transabdominal ultrasound; providing that a woman is
7 not required to accept anything offered during certain transabdominal ultrasound
8 imaging; and generally relating to an ultrasound and waiting period before the
9 performance of an abortion.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Health – General
12 Section 20–209
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Health – General
17 Section 20–210
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Health – General**

23 20–209.

24 (a) In this section, “viable” means that stage when, in the best clinical judgment
25 of the qualified provider based on the particular facts of the case before the qualified

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 provider, there is a reasonable likelihood of the fetus's sustained survival outside the womb.

2 (b) Except as **PROVIDED IN § 20–210 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR AS** otherwise
3 provided in this subtitle, the State may not interfere with the decision of a woman to
4 terminate a pregnancy:

5 (1) Before the fetus is viable; or

6 (2) At any time during the woman's pregnancy, if:

7 (i) The termination procedure is necessary to protect the life or
8 health of the woman; or

9 (ii) The fetus is affected by genetic defect or serious deformity or
10 abnormality.

11 (c) The Department may adopt regulations that:

12 (1) Are both necessary and the least intrusive method to protect the life or
13 health of the woman; and

14 (2) Are not inconsistent with established clinical practice.

15 (d) The qualified provider is not liable for civil damages or subject to a criminal
16 penalty for a decision to perform an abortion under this section made in good faith and in
17 the qualified provider's best clinical judgment in accordance with accepted standards of
18 clinical practice **AND § 20–210 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

19 **20–210.**

20 **(A) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A WOMAN SEEKING AN ABORTION IF:**

21 **(1) THE WOMAN IS THE VICTIM OF AN ALLEGED RAPE OR OF INCEST,**
22 **AS PROHIBITED UNDER § 3–323 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE; AND**

23 **(2) THE INCIDENT OF RAPE OR INCEST IS REPORTED TO LAW**
24 **ENFORCEMENT.**

25 **(B) A QUALIFIED PROVIDER MAY NOT PERFORM OR INDUCE AN ABORTION**
26 **ON A PREGNANT WOMAN:**

27 **(1) WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER THE WOMAN RECEIVES**
28 **TRANSABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND IMAGING IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C)**
29 **OF THIS SECTION; OR**

1 **(2) IF THE WOMAN RESIDES AT LEAST 100 MILES FROM THE FACILITY**
2 **IN WHICH THE ABORTION WILL BE PERFORMED, WITHIN 2 HOURS AFTER THE**
3 **WOMAN RECEIVES TRANSABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND IMAGING IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
4 **SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION.**

5 **(C) THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING THE TRANSABDOMINAL**
6 **ULTRASOUND IMAGING REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION MUST:**

7 **(1) BE TRAINED IN SONOGRAPHY AND WORKING UNDER THE**
8 **SUPERVISION OF A QUALIFIED PROVIDER;**

9 **(2) IF POSSIBLE, DETERMINE THE GESTATIONAL AGE OF THE FETUS**
10 **BASED ON:**

11 **(I) MEASUREMENT OF THE FETUS IN A MANNER CONSISTENT**
12 **WITH THE STANDARD OF CARE; OR**

13 **(II) IF ONLY THE GESTATIONAL SAC IS VISIBLE DURING THE**
14 **TRANSABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND IMAGING, MEASUREMENT OF THE GESTATIONAL**
15 **SAC;**

16 **(3) IF GESTATIONAL AGE CANNOT BE DETERMINED UNDER ITEM (2)**
17 **OF THIS SUBSECTION, VERBALLY OFFER TO THE WOMAN OTHER ULTRASOUND**
18 **IMAGING TO DETERMINE GESTATIONAL AGE OF THE FETUS;**

19 **(4) IF PRESENT AND VIEWABLE, INCLUDE IN THE ULTRASOUND**
20 **IMAGE:**

21 **(I) THE DIMENSIONS OF THE FETUS; AND**

22 **(II) AN ACCURATE PORTRAYAL OF THE PRESENCE OF**
23 **EXTERNAL MEMBERS AND INTERNAL ORGANS OF THE FETUS;**

24 **(5) MAKE A PRINT OF THE ULTRASOUND IMAGE TO DOCUMENT ANY**
25 **MEASUREMENTS TAKEN TO DETERMINE THE GESTATIONAL AGE OF THE FETUS;**

26 **(6) VERBALLY OFFER TO THE WOMAN DURING THE**
27 **TRANSABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND IMAGING THE OPTION TO:**

28 **(I) VIEW THE ULTRASOUND IMAGE;**

29 **(II) RECEIVE A PRINTED COPY OF THE ULTRASOUND IMAGE;**

30 **AND**

1 **(III) HEAR THE FETAL HEARTBEAT IN A MANNER CONSISTENT**
2 **WITH THE STANDARD OF CARE; AND**

3 **(7) OBTAIN FROM THE WOMAN WRITTEN CERTIFICATION THAT:**

4 **(I) THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING THE**
5 **TRANSABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND IMAGING OFFERED OPTIONS AS REQUIRED UNDER**
6 **ITEM (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

7 **(II) IF APPLICABLE, THE WOMAN RESIDES AT LEAST 100 MILES**
8 **FROM THE FACILITY IN WHICH THE ABORTION WILL BE PERFORMED.**

9 **(D) A WOMAN IS NOT REQUIRED TO ACCEPT ANYTHING OFFERED DURING**
10 **TRANSABDOMINAL ULTRASOUND IMAGING PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
11 **SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING OFFERS MADE UNDER SUBSECTION**
12 **(C)(3) AND (6) OF THIS SECTION.**

13 **(E) THE FACILITY IN WHICH AN ABORTION IS PERFORMED SHALL MAINTAIN**
14 **A PRINTED COPY OF THE ULTRASOUND IMAGE MADE UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(5) OF**
15 **THIS SECTION FOR THE GREATER OF:**

16 **(1) 7 YEARS; OR**

17 **(2) AN AMOUNT OF TIME AS REQUIRED BY FEDERAL OR STATE LAW.**

18 **(F) A QUALIFIED PROVIDER WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A**
19 **PENALTY OF UP TO \$2,500.**

20 **(G) THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT A QUALIFIED**
21 **PROVIDER FROM USING ULTRASOUND IMAGING THAT THE QUALIFIED PROVIDER**
22 **CONSIDERS MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE, CONSISTENT WITH THE STANDARD OF CARE.**

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2026.