

Sanctioning the termination of a pregnancy for any reason during the “perinatal” period or causing a perinatal death due to failure to act would make infanticide lawful. “Perinatal” is defined in medical practice as the period from the twentieth to twenty-ninth week of gestation until four weeks AFTER birth. Death of an infant born alive and up to 28 days after the birth through “failure to act” (i.e., neglecting to provide basic and/or any medical care to the infant after birth, that is, letting him/her die) would not subject the “pregnant person” or anyone assisting, who causes, or in the vague language of the Bill, “experiences” such a death, to any penalty or even to any investigation of the death of an infant up to 28 days old.

Any investigation into a “perinatal” death would furthermore grant a legal cause of action to those persons “experiencing” or causing, through “failure to act”, the death of an infant, to sue for damages. Such a barbarous and inhumane law, whose provisions might once have been described as shocking to the conscience, has found a place in barbarous and inhumane regimes like those of China and North Korea, but it must not become the law of the land in the enlightened state of Maryland.