An Act To Ensure Equality in Women's Health Care Access in Maine by Requiring Facilities Providing Abortions To Inform Patients of Options and Alternatives

Reference to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services suggested and ordered printed.

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1.  22 MRSA §1599-A, sub-§2, ¶C, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 61, §4, is amended to read:

C.  The particular risks associated with her own pregnancy and the abortion technique to be performed; and

Sec. 2.  22 MRSA §1599-A, sub-§2, ¶D, as enacted by PL 1993, c. 61, §4, is amended to read:

D.  At the woman's request, alternatives to abortion such as childbirth and adoption and information concerning public and private agencies that will provide the woman with economic and other assistance to carry the fetus to term, including, if the woman so requests, a list of these agencies and the services available from each; and

Sec. 3.  22 MRSA §1599-A, sub-§2, ¶E is enacted to read:

E.  That it may be possible to reverse the effects of an abortion-inducing drug if she changes her mind, but that time is of the essence, and information about and assistance with reversing the effects of an abortion-inducing drug are available in the printed materials given to her as described in subsection 3.

Sec. 4.  22 MRSA §1599-A, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3.  Reversal of abortion-inducing drug.  The health care professional, as defined in section 1596, subsection 1, paragraph C, shall ensure that the woman is offered printed materials that include information that it may be possible to reverse the effects of an abortion-inducing drug but that time is of the essence.  The materials must include information about where the woman may obtain further information and assistance in locating medical assistance in the reversal of the abortion-inducing drug.

The department shall prepare printed materials as required by this subsection.

SUMMARY

This bill amends the abortion informed consent laws to require the health care professional to tell the pregnant woman that it may be possible to reverse the effects of an abortion-inducing drug, although time is of the essence.  The health care professional must make available written materials, prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services, about the possibility of reversing the effects of the drug and how to obtain additional information and medical assistance.