

BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR LEGISLATIVE REFERENDUM NO. 131 (LR-131)

LEGISLATIVE REFERENDUM NO. 131

AN ACT REFERRED BY THE LEGISLATURE

AN ACT ADOPTING THE BORN-ALIVE INFANT PROTECTION ACT; PROVIDING THAT INFANTS BORN ALIVE, INCLUDING INFANTS BORN ALIVE AFTER AN ABORTION, ARE LEGAL PERSONS; REQUIRING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO PRESERVE THE LIFE OF A BORN-ALIVE INFANT; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING THAT THE PROPOSED ACT BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

This Act legally protects born-alive infants by imposing criminal penalties on health care providers who do not act to preserve the life of such infants, including infants born during an attempted abortion. A born-alive infant is entitled to medically appropriate care and treatment. A health care provider shall take medically appropriate and reasonable actions to preserve the life and health of a born-alive infant.

A born-alive infant means an infant who breathes, has a beating heart, or has definite movement of voluntary muscles, after the complete expulsion or extraction from the mother.

A health care provider found guilty of failing to take medically appropriate and reasonable actions to preserve a born-alive infant's life under this Act faces punishment of a fine up to \$50,000 or imprisonment up to 20 years, or both.

YES on Legislative Referendum LR-131

NO on Legislative Referendum LR-131

THE COMPLETE TEXT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 167, REFERRED BY LR-131

AN ACT ADOPTING THE BORN-ALIVE INFANT PROTECTION ACT; PROVIDING THAT INFANTS BORN ALIVE, INCLUDING INFANTS BORN ALIVE AFTER AN ABORTION, ARE LEGAL PERSONS; REQUIRING HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO TAKE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO PRESERVE THE LIFE OF A BORN-ALIVE INFANT; PROVIDING A PENALTY; PROVIDING THAT THE PROPOSED ACT BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF MONTANA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Short title. [Sections 1 through 8] may be cited as the "Born-Alive Infant Protection Act".

Section 2. Findings -- purpose. (1) The state asserts a compelling interest in protecting the life of any infant born alive following an abortion.

(2) An infant born alive is a legal person for all purposes under the laws of the state and is entitled to the protections of the laws, including the right to appropriate and reasonable medical care and treatment.

(3) In the absence of proper legal protections, newly born infants who have survived abortions have been denied appropriate lifesaving or life-sustaining medical care and treatment and have been left to die.

Section 3. Definitions. As used in [sections 1 through 8], the following definitions apply:

(1) "Abortion clinic" means any health care provider who performs any surgical abortion procedure or provides a medicine, drug, or any other substance prescribed or dispensed with the intent of terminating the clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman, with knowledge that the termination will with reasonable likelihood cause the death of the unborn child. This includes the off-label use of drugs that are known to have abortion-inducing properties and are prescribed specifically with the intent of causing an abortion, such as misoprostol and methotrexate, but excludes drugs that may be known to cause an abortion but are prescribed for other medical indications.

(2) "Born alive" means the complete expulsion or extraction from the mother of a human infant, at any stage of development, who, after expulsion or extraction, breathes, has a beating heart, or has definite movement of voluntary muscles, regardless of whether the umbilical cord has been cut and

regardless of whether the expulsion or extraction occurs as a result of natural or induced labor, cesarean section, induced abortion, or another method.

(3) "Health care provider" means an individual who may be asked to participate in any way in a health care service or procedure, including but not limited to a physician, physician's assistant, nurse, nurse's aide, medical assistant, hospital employee, medical facility employee, or abortion clinic employee.

(4) "Medical facility" means a public or private hospital, clinic, center, medical school, medical training institute, health care facility, physician's office, infirmary, dispensary, ambulatory surgical treatment center, or other institution or location in which medical care or treatment is provided to any person.

Section 4. Born-alive infant protection. (1) A born-alive infant, including an infant born in the course of an abortion, must be treated as a legal person under the laws of the state, with the same rights to medically appropriate and reasonable care and treatment.

(2) A health care provider who is present at the time a born-alive infant is born shall take all medically appropriate and reasonable actions to preserve the life and health of the infant.

Section 5. Criminal penalties. (1) A health care provider who purposely, knowingly, or negligently violates [section 4] is guilty of a felony and upon conviction shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$50,000, be imprisoned in a state prison for a term not to exceed 20 years, or both.

(2) For the purposes of this section, "purposely", "knowingly", and "negligently" have the meanings provided in 45-2-101.

Section 6. Mandatory reporting. A health care provider, medical facility, abortion clinic, or employee or volunteer of a medical facility or abortion clinic that has knowledge of a failure to comply with the requirements of [section 4] shall immediately report the failure to law enforcement.

Section 7. Construction. [Sections 1 through 8] may not be construed as any indication that other state laws protecting children do not apply to infants born alive during an abortion.

Section 8. Right of intervention. The legislature, by joint resolution, may appoint one or more of its members, who sponsored or cosponsored [sections 1 through 8] in the member's official capacity, to

intervene as a matter of right in any case in which the constitutionality of [sections 1 through 8] is challenged.

Section 9. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 8] are intended to be codified as a new part in Title 50, chapter 20, and the provisions of Title 50, chapter 20, apply to [sections 1 through 8].

Section 10. Severability. If a part of [this act] is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of [this act] is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

Section 11. Effective date. If approved by the electorate, [this act] is effective January 1, 2023.

Section 12. Submission to electorate. [This act] shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Montana at the general election to be held in November 2022 by printing on the ballot the full title of [this act] and the following:

YES on Legislative Referendum LR-131

NO on Legislative Referendum LR-131