

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 733 Session of  
1999

INTRODUCED BY WILLIAMS, YOUNGBLOOD, LAUGHLIN, STURLA, BUXTON,  
MUNDY, BEBKO-JONES, JOSEPHS, MANDERINO, CURRY AND MYERS,  
MARCH 8, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 8, 1999

AN ACT

1 Requiring municipal police to report to the Office of Attorney  
2 General actions taken to prevent and combat anti-abortion and  
3 anticontraception violence; giving the Attorney General  
4 certain investigative and prosecutorial powers; requiring  
5 reports to the General Assembly; and making an appropriation.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Short title.

9 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Reproduction  
10 Rights Protection Act.

11 Section 2. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
13 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Municipality." A county, city, borough, incorporated town  
16 or township, or any local government.

17 "Reproductive health care." Health care sought or provided  
18 in connection with pregnancy, contraception or abortion as  
19 permitted by law.

1 Section 3. Police abortion violence reports.

2 The police in every municipality shall provide a summary  
3 report to the Office of Attorney General on actions taken to  
4 prevent and combat anti-abortion and anticontraception violence,  
5 including, but not limited to, the following:

6 (1) All criminal violations, including arson, criminal  
7 mischief, defiant trespass, disorderly conduct, harassment  
8 and trespass, which involve interference or intended  
9 interference with an individual's access to or ability to  
10 obtain reproductive health care or with the ability of a  
11 health care provider to provide reproductive health care.

12 (2) Action taken by the police in relation to each  
13 incident of reproductive health care interference.

14 (3) The extraordinary expenses incurred by the  
15 municipality in order to supply adequate police response to  
16 interference with reproductive health care, including  
17 overtime paid to increase the police response.

18 Section 4. Concurrent jurisdiction.

19 The Attorney General shall have concurrent jurisdiction:

20 (1) with the local law enforcement agencies to  
21 investigate all incidents in this Commonwealth involving  
22 interference with an individual's access to or ability to  
23 obtain reproductive health care or with the ability of a  
24 health care provider to provide reproductive health care; and

25 (2) with the district attorney in any county for any  
26 criminal charges involving interference with reproductive  
27 health care, to the same extent as cases provided in section  
28 205 of the act of October 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known  
29 as the Commonwealth Attorneys Act.

30 Section 5. Legislative abortion violence reports.

1 On or before December 31, 2000, and each year thereafter, the  
2 Attorney General shall make a report to the General Assembly  
3 which shall include the following:

4 (1) The number of incidents of criminal charges  
5 involving interference with reproductive health care.

6 (2) The action taken by the police in relation to each  
7 criminal charge involving reproductive health care  
8 interference.

9 (3) The action taken by the Attorney General or district  
10 attorney or other law enforcement agency in relation to each  
11 criminal charge involving reproductive health care  
12 interference.

13 (4) The extraordinary expenses incurred by the  
14 municipality in order to supply adequate police response to  
15 interference with reproductive health care, including  
16 overtime paid to increase the police response.

17 (5) A written plan formulated by the police and the  
18 Office of Attorney General designed:

19 (i) to protect the safety of women seeking  
20 reproductive health care and health care providers; and

21 (ii) to ensure safe ingress and egress by patients  
22 and staff to reproductive health care facilities.

23 Section 6. Appropriation.

24 The sum of \$50,000 is hereby appropriated to the Office of  
25 Attorney General for the fiscal year July 1, 1999, to June 30,  
26 2000, to carry out this act. This shall be a continuing  
27 appropriation and shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year.

28 Section 7. Effective date.

29 This act shall take effect immediately.