



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1948

PRINTERS NO. 3056

PRIME SPONSOR: Rapp

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2015/16	FY 2016/17
General Fund	See "Fiscal Impact" below.	

SUMMARY: House Bill 1948 amends the Crimes Code concerning abortion. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS: House Bill 1948 makes several changes to Chapter 32 of the Crimes Code, also known as the Abortion Control Act.

It will prohibit an individual from performing or inducing an abortion upon another person when the gestational age of the unborn child is 20 or more weeks, unless the abortion is performed to protect the life of the mother; or if failing to perform the abortion would lead to a substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function. Under current law the prohibition is set at the gestational age of 24 weeks.

It also adds a new section that prohibits "dismemberment abortions" as defined in the bill. Exceptions to this prohibition are provided and differ based on the gestational age of the unborn child. The section also specifies that liability for performing a dismemberment abortion cannot fall on the patient or any individual involved in the abortion process who acts at the direction of a physician. Performing a dismemberment abortion is graded as a felony of the third degree, punishable by a fine of up to \$15,000 and/or up to 7 years in prison.

House Bill 1948 also repeals provisions relating to spousal notice and clarifies that medical consultations that occur prior to an abortion procedure must occur in-person.

FISCAL IMPACT: Reliable data do not exist to determine how many individuals may be convicted and sentenced as a result of the changes made by this legislation. However, according to data provided by the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing, from 2004 through 2014 there have been three convictions for violations of the current Abortion Control Act, one each in 2011, 2013, and 2014.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: June 21, 2016

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.