

2020 SESSION

INTRODUCED

20104196D

HOUSE BILL NO. 1551

Offered January 11, 2020

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 29 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-2973.2, relating to fetal dismemberment prohibited.

Patrons—LaRock, Avoli, Cole, M.L., Fowler and Freitas; Senator: Chase

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 6 of Chapter 29 of Title 54.1 a section numbered 54.1-2973.2 as follows:

§ 54.1-2973.2. *Fetal dismemberment prohibited.*

No person licensed by the Board to practice medicine shall perform an abortion that involves the dismemberment of a fetus for the purpose of causing the death of the fetus and extracting the fetus from the uterus through use of clamps, grasping forceps, tongs, scissors, or similar instruments that, through the convergence of two rigid levers, slice, crush, or grasp a portion of the fetus to remove that portion of the fetus from the rest of the fetus unless, in his professional judgment, based on his best clinical judgment, the continuation of the pregnancy is likely to result in the death of the pregnant person or substantially and irretrievably impair the physical health of the pregnant person. Continuation of the pregnancy shall not be deemed likely to substantially and irretrievably impair the physical health of the pregnant person solely because the pregnant person claims to intend, or is diagnosed to be likely, to engage in conduct that will result in death or substantial and irretrievable impairment to physical health.

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