

March 30, 2009

**H 891. ULTRASOUND BEFORE AN ABORTION.** Filed 3/30/09. *TO PROVIDE FOR AN ULTRASOUND BEFORE PERFORMING AN ABORTION.*

Amends GS Chapter 14, Article 11, to add several requirements before a physician may perform an abortion. Requires physician to inform the woman of the probable gestational age of the embryo or fetus based on obstetric ultrasound conducted at the time abortion is to be performed. Requires physician to reproduce and review ultrasound images with the woman prior to her giving informed consent for procedure. Specifies that woman is not required to view images. Requires physician and woman to sign a written form notifying her of her right to review printed materials describing fetal development, listing agencies offering alternatives to abortion, and describing medical assistance benefits that might be available to the woman for prenatal and neonatal care and childbirth. Requires the woman to certify in writing that the information as to gestational age and the ultrasound images have been reviewed with her and that she has been informed of the additional information required under the statute. Requires an interval of at least one hour between receipt of written material and performance of abortion. Contains additional provisions pertaining to instances in which the woman is an unemancipated minor or adjudicated incompetent. Requirements do not apply in cases of medical emergency, defined as a condition so complicating a pregnancy as to necessitate an immediate abortion to avert death or for which a delay will create serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of major bodily function. Becomes effective December 1, 2009.

**Intro. by Hilton.**

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