



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1451/1  
TJD:klm

## 2017 BILL

- 1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 940.04; and *to amend* 939.75 (2) (b) 1. and 968.26 (1b) (a) 2.  
2 a. of the statutes; **relating to:** eliminating certain abortion prohibitions.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

This bill repeals a statute relating to abortion that has been held unenforceable by a federal court. Under that statute, any person, other than the mother, who intentionally destroys the life of an unborn child is guilty of a Class H felony. "Unborn child" is defined as a human being from the time of conception until born alive. Any person, other than the mother, who intentionally destroys the life of an unborn quick child or causes the mother's death by an act done with intent to destroy the life of an unborn child is guilty of a Class E felony. None of these penalties apply to a therapeutic abortion that is performed by a physician; is necessary, or advised by two other physicians as necessary, to save the life of the mother; and, unless an emergency prevents, is performed in a licensed maternity hospital.

The statute was cited in *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), as similar to a Texas statute that was held to violate the due process clause of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution. The unenforceability of the statute following the *Roe v. Wade* decision was noted in a subsequent decision by a federal district court, *Larkin v. McCann*, 368 F. Supp. 1352 (E.D. Wis., 1974).

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***The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:***

