

Exhibit E

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Mississippi Senate passes abortion regulation bill

By Phil West

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JACKSON -- With a Republican governor and a solid GOP majority in the Legislature, conservative lawmakers pushed ahead Wednesday toward their goal of ending legal abortion in Mississippi.

The state has only one clinic that performs abortions, and anti-abortion protestors routinely sit in chairs on the sidewalk outside the clinic in the Fondren community north of downtown Jackson.

Gov. Phil Bryant and Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves issued press releases minutes after senators approved legislation requiring physicians performing abortions to hold admitting privileges at a local hospital.

The bill also requires that abortions be performed by certified obstetrics-gynecologists, and the facility must have someone certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation on hand during the facility's operating hours.

"This legislation is an important step in strengthening abortion regulations and protecting the health and safety of women," Bryant said.

"As governor, I will continue to work to make Mississippi abortion-free."

Senators approved the House version of that legislation with only six "no" votes, but held it for one day on a parliamentary move before sending it on to Bryant for his signature.

"Today's bill was a fantastic win for the unborn child in that the bill requires the practicing physician to have hospital privileges and be ob-gyn certified," said Sen. Merle Flowers, R-Olive Branch.

"There's only one abortion clinic in Mississippi. I hope this measure shuts that down."

Another bill linked by some with the abortion measure and which the House approved Feb. 2 would make it a crime for teachers, principals, physicians, nurses, ministers -- even photo processing lab workers -- to fail to report sex crimes against minors.

Senators amended the bill, which means it has to go back to the House for consideration of the amended bill. Should the House agree with Senate changes, the

measure goes to the governor.

Should the House decline the Senate amendment, the bill will go to a conference committee to hash out the differences.

A third bill, which was amended and goes back to the House, would require inspections of would-be adoptive parents' homes before children can be placed there for adoption.

"These are strong, common-sense pro-life bills that will not only end abortion in Mississippi but will enhance efforts to protect children from abuse," Reeves said.

"I appreciate the hard work by these senators to shape laws that make Mississippi an even safer place for children."



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