

2015 State Abortion Laws

Arkansas and North Dakota:

The 8th Circuit is hearing Arkansas and North Dakota cases in which attorneys for both states are asking the court to reinstate overturned laws. The North Dakota law, approved in March 2013, banned abortions when a fetal heartbeat can be detected, which can be as early as six weeks into pregnancy and before many women know they're pregnant. A U.S. District Court judge in Bismarck ruled the law unconstitutional in April 2014.

The Arkansas law, which was passed three weeks before the North Dakota measure, banned abortions after 12 weeks. Lawmakers in the Republican-controlled Legislature overrode former Democratic Gov. Mike Beebe's veto.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/01/13/us/ap-us-abortion-state-limits.html>

Colorado:

Colorado lawmakers are currently planning to introduce a bill that would criminalize fetal homicide, using incidents of violence against pregnant woman as a pretext to criminalize abortion. The bill has not been passed yet.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/13/opinion/the-error-of-fetal-homicide-laws.html?ref=topics> .

Indiana:

Interesting case: On March 31, Purvi Patel was sentenced to 20 years in prison for feticide and neglect of a dependent causing death when she induced her own late-term abortion. She took the abortion pill, which she bought illegally on the internet, although it is available legally by prescription in the US. It is unclear how far along she was in her pregnancy, since the prosecution's estimates were not medically sound.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/01/magazine/purvi-patel-could-be-just-the-beginning.html?ref=topics>

Kansas:

First state to ban dilation and evacuation abortions, the safest and most common method of ending a second-trimester pregnancy, which involve dilating the cervix and removing the fetus, often in parts, on April 7, 2015.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/10/opinion/kansas-tries-to-stamp-out-abortion.html?ref=topics>

Oklahoma:

Passed a ban in the legislature on dilation and evacuation abortions on April 8, 2015. Will likely be signed into law by Governor Mary Fallin, a supporter of abortion restrictions.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/04/08/us-usa-abortion-oklahoma-idUSKBN0MZ2FV20150408>

West Virginia:

West Virginia's Republican-controlled legislature voted on March 6, 2015 to override Governor Tomblin's (D) veto of a bill, HB 258, that banned abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. The legislation prohibits abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy, with no exception for rape or incest. Proponents of the ban claim fetuses can feel pain at that point, although that notion is scientifically disputed. Tomblin cited constitutional concerns when he vetoed the bill. Here is a link to the bill:

http://www.legis.state.wv.us/Bill_Status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=HB2568%20SUB.htm&yr=2015&esstype=RS&i=2568