



Alaska State Legislature

Senate Majority Web: www.akrepublicans.org

Sponsor: Senator Fred Dyson
Current Version: HCS CSSB 20(JUD)
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Fact Sheet for: Senate Bill 20

Short Title: OFFENSES AGAINST UNBORN CHILDREN

Summary:

- Makes it a crime for a person who causes the death or injury of an unborn child in a manner similar to the punishment imposed on a person who causes the injury or death of a live born person.
- Exempts acts that are committed during a legal abortion or under usual and customary standards of medical practice during diagnostic testing, therapeutic treatment, or to assist a pregnancy.
- Exempts all acts that "are committed by a pregnant woman against herself and her own unborn child."
- Defines "unborn child" for application of criminal law.

Benefits:

- Provides protection to unborn children that is reasonably equivalent to protection afforded to live born persons in comparable circumstances.
- Clarifies Alaska Criminal law in the context of newly passed federal law of similar intent.

Background:

- The federal H.R. 1997 passed at the end of January, 2004 and became Public Law 108-212 March 1, 2004. Known as the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004, or Laci and Conner's Law, it provides that persons who commit certain federal violent crimes and thereby cause the death of, or bodily injury to, a child who is in utero is guilty of a separate offense. The federal law is limited in that it applies to crimes committed on federal property.