

HB 1313 – Protecting Medical Professionals Treating Pregnant Women

Legislative Rubric from Science for Georgia

[HB 1313](#) - This bill protects healthcare professionals treating pregnant women. It clarifies that law enforcement cannot automatically investigate or arrest those assisting with an abortion if done according to Georgia law, or if actions relate to pregnancy outcomes including miscarriage, stillbirth, ectopic pregnancy, or perinatal death due to in utero causes.

Criteria	Variables			
Impact Who is going to be impacted? Is it equitable? List stakeholders & opinions.	Negative		Positive	
	The impact appears largely positive, with some caveats. This bill could reduce fear of criminal investigation for clinicians when pregnancy complications occur. By clarifying that miscarriages, stillbirth, ectopic pregnancies, and other unfavorable pregnancy outcomes should not automatically trigger investigation or arrest by law enforcement, the bill may allow physicians to provide timely treatment. In particular, it offers legal protection for healthcare professionals who perform or assist with an abortion if the procedure is carried out in accordance with Georgia law (specifically Code Section 16-12-141). However, some language remains ambiguous regarding how cases of clinical negligence or malpractice should be reviewed.			
Reach Does it reach its target audience?	0 - No impact on target audience.	1 - Impacts narrow segment.	2 - Impacts majority; exceptions.	3 - Impacts entire target audience
	This bill would impact the majority of healthcare professionals performing or assisting with abortions in accordance with the law, in addition to treating pregnancy complications. However, since the bill remains ambiguous at parts, full immunity will likely not be seen.			
Scientific Merit Does it utilize scientific research accurately?	YES - this does follow scientific research accurately. Here's why....		NO - this does not present scientific research accurately.	
	Ob/Gyn is one of the medical specialties that is most at risk for litigation and this causes doctors to practice what is called “defensive medicine,” such as recommending unnecessary cesarean delivery (Cheng et al., 2014). Clinical guidance from organizations such as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG, n.d.) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2023) emphasizes the need for timely treatment of pregnancy complications to prevent severe maternal morbidity and mortality. Legal protections that allow physicians to provide medically necessary care without fear of prosecution therefore align with evidence-based practice. At the same time, the scientific rationale is strongest when paired with clear systems for clinical review to ensure that negligent care can still be appropriately investigated.			

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Financial Feasibility Is it financially feasible? or does this have burdensome finances (higher taxes, future costs, etc)?	0 - Extremely high costs	1 - Expensive but can be done	2 - Slight	3 - No financial burden
	This bill would <u>reduce</u> the high burden of litigation costs on healthcare providers, potentially reducing the size of professional liability insurance needed.			
Political Feasibility Level of opposition and partisan disagreement.	0 - Majority disagreed, regardless of party.	1 – Split along party lines	2 - Minimal Opposition	3 - Complete consensus (zero to five 'Nays').
	This bill is Democratically sponsored and remains early in the legislative process.			
Measurable Metrics? We recommend looking at these 3 metrics. Is the data available or being measured?	0 - no data	1 - some data / not accessible	2 - most data / somewhat accessible	3 - complete transparency
	It seems that even if data is to be collected to document the effects of this bill on the behaviors and attitudes of healthcare professionals, the data would be retrospective. Other potential indicators could include timeliness of treatment, number of reported delays in obstetric emergencies and surveys assessing perceived legal risk when providing care. These metrics could provide tangential evidence to support the bill.			