

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 509

Short Title: Right to Reproductive Freedom Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives von Haefen, Butler, Greenfield, and Dew (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 26, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REMOVE BARRIERS AND GAIN ACCESS TO ABORTION AND  
3 REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH (RIGHT TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM ACT).

4 Whereas, the ability to access safe and legal abortion is a critical component of a  
5 patient's health and dignity, as well as independence, freedom, and equality; and

6 Whereas, throughout pregnancy, patients must be able to make their own health care  
7 decisions with the advice of health care professionals they trust and without government  
8 interference; and

9 Whereas, North Carolina has limited access to abortion services by enacting a  
10 growing number of hurdles, restrictions, and requirements that serve no medical purpose and are  
11 intended to make it more difficult for patients to access health care; and

12 Whereas, the impact of abortion restrictions is predominantly felt by those who  
13 already experience systemic barriers to health care, including young people, people of color,  
14 those with disabilities, individuals with low incomes, and those who live in rural areas or are  
15 undocumented; Now, therefore,

16 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

17 **SECTION 1.(a)** Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
18 Article to read:

19 "Article 10.

20 "Codify Roe and Casey Protections.

21 **"§ 90-21.160. Short title.**

22 This Article shall be known and may be cited as "Right to Reproductive Freedom Act."

23 **"§ 90-21.161. Purpose.**

24 The purpose of this Article is to codify the essential holdings of Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113  
25 (1973), and Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, 505 U.S. 833 (1992).

26 **"§ 90-21.162. Allowable requirements.**

27 (a) The State shall not impose an undue burden on the ability of a person to choose  
28 whether or not to terminate a pregnancy before fetal viability.

29 (b) The State may restrict the ability of a person to choose whether or not to terminate a  
30 pregnancy after fetal viability, unless such a termination is necessary to preserve the life or health  
31 of the person.

32 (c) For the purposes of this section, the term "undue burden" means any burden that  
33 places a substantial obstacle in the path of a person seeking to terminate a pregnancy prior to  
34 fetal viability.



1 (d) Nothing in this Article shall be construed to have any effect on laws regarding  
2 conscience protection."

3 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 90-21.4 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 90-21.4. Responsibility, liability and immunity of physicians.**

5 ...

6 (c) For the purposes of this section, a person who is qualified to practice medicine under  
7 Article 1 of this Chapter, a physician assistant as defined in G.S. 90-18.1, a nurse practitioner as  
8 defined in G.S. 90-18.2, or a certified nurse midwife licensed under Article 10A of this Chapter  
9 shall qualify for the same limited immunity in this section that is designated for a physician."

10 **SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 90-21.9 reads as rewritten:

11 "**§ 90-21.9. Medical emergency exception.**

12 (a) The requirements of parental consent prescribed by G.S. 90-21.7(a) shall not apply  
13 when, in the best medical judgment of the physician based on the facts of the case before the  
14 physician, a medical emergency exists that so complicates the pregnancy as to require an  
15 immediate abortion, or when the conditions prescribed by G.S. 90-21.1(4) are met.

16 (b) For the purposes of this section and G.S. 90-21.7, a person who is qualified to practice  
17 medicine under Article 1 of this Chapter, a physician assistant as defined in G.S. 90-18.1, a nurse  
18 practitioner as defined in G.S. 90-18.2, or a certified nurse midwife licensed under Article 10A  
19 of this Chapter may fulfill the requirements and functions designated for a physician."

20 **SECTION 1.(d)** G.S. 90-21.5 reads as rewritten:

21 "**§ 90-21.5. Minor's consent sufficient for certain medical health services.**

22 (a) Subject to subsection (a1) of this section, any minor may give effective consent to a  
23 physician licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina for medical health services for the  
24 prevention, diagnosis and treatment of (i) venereal disease and other diseases reportable under  
25 G.S. 130A-135, (ii) pregnancy, (iii) abuse of controlled substances or alcohol, and (iv) emotional  
26 disturbance. This section does not authorize ~~the inducing of an abortion,~~ performance of a  
27 sterilization ~~operation,~~ operation or admission to a 24-hour facility licensed under Article 2 of  
28 Chapter 122C of the General Statutes except as provided in G.S. 122C-223. This section does  
29 not prohibit the admission of a minor to a treatment facility upon his own written application in  
30 an emergency situation as authorized by G.S. 122C-223.

31 ...."

32 **SECTION 1.(e)** G.S. 90-21.120 reads as rewritten:

33 "**§ 90-21.120. Definitions.**

34 The following definitions apply in this Article:

35 (1) ~~Abortion. — As defined in G.S. 90-21.81.~~ The use or prescription of any  
36 instrument, medicine, drug, or other substance or device intentionally to  
37 terminate the pregnancy of a person known to be pregnant with an intention  
38 other than to increase the probability of a live birth.

39 (2) ~~Attempt to perform an abortion. — As defined in G.S. 90-21.81.~~

40 (3) ~~Woman. — As defined in G.S. 90-21.81."~~

41 **SECTION 1.(f)** G.S. 90-21.121 is repealed.

42 **SECTION 1.(g)** Article 1I of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is repealed.

43 **SECTION 1.(h)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

44 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 143C-6-5.5 is repealed.

45 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 135-48.50 reads as rewritten:

46 "**§ 135-48.50. Coverage mandates.**

47 The Plan shall provide coverage subject to the following coverage mandates:

48 (1) ~~Abortion coverage. — The Plan shall not provide coverage for abortions for~~  
49 ~~which State funds could not be used under G.S. 143C-6-5.5. The Plan shall,~~  
50 ~~however,~~ shall provide coverage for subsequent complications or related  
51 charges arising from an ~~abortion not covered under this subdivision.~~ abortion.

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**SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 58-51-63 is repealed.

**SECTION 3.(b)** This section is effective 30 days after it becomes law and applies to contracts entered into, amended, or renewed on or after that date.

**SECTION 4.(a)** G.S. 153A-92(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) A county may purchase life insurance or health insurance or both for the benefit of all or any class of county officers and employees as a part of their compensation. A county may provide other fringe benefits for county officers and employees. ~~In providing health insurance to county officers and employees, a county shall not provide abortion coverage greater than that provided by the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees under Article 3B of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes.~~"

**SECTION 4.(b)** G.S. 160A-162(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) The council may purchase life, health, and any other forms of insurance for the benefit of all or any class of city employees and their dependents, and may provide other fringe benefits for city employees. ~~In providing health insurance to city employees, the council shall not provide abortion coverage greater than that provided by the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees under Article 3B of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes.~~"

**SECTION 5.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.