

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 558**

By Senator Azinger

[Introduced January 25, 2024; referred  
to the Committee on Education; and then to the  
Committee on Health and Human Resources]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,  
 2 designated §18B-22-1, §18B-22-2, §18B-22-3, and §18B-22-4, all relating to requiring  
 3 publicly funded medical schools to teach the most current evidence-based, life-saving  
 4 methods including abortion pill reversal; providing definitions; setting forth consequences  
 5 for noncompliance of standard education practices; and providing finding that this article is  
 6 necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 22. PUBLICLY-FUNDED MEDICAL SCHOOLS TO TEACH THE MOST  
 CURRENT EVIDENCE-BASED, LIFE-SAVING METHODS INCLUDING  
 ABORTION PILL REVERSAL.**

**§18B-22-1. Legislative findings.**

- 1 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that:
- 2 (a) Informed consent is a fundamental practice of quality medical services;
- 3 (b) The preborn child is human and alive from the moment of fertilization;
- 4 (c) Medical practitioners should be educated on all life-saving procedures relevant to their  
 5 field;
- 6 (d) Progesterone is a hormone essential to the life and development of preborn children  
 7 which is negatively targeted by the medication abortion chemical mifepristone or RU-486;
- 8 (e) Regret after taking the first chemical abortion pill, mifepristone, is real and women have  
 9 the right to medical procedures attempting to save the life of their preborn child;
- 10 (f) According to the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
 11 (AAPLOG), reversal of a medication abortion is possible via the abortion pill reversal process if  
 12 attempted within the first 72 hours, although not guaranteed;
- 13 (g) Treatment of ectopic pregnancy and miscarriage are essential life-saving care; and
- 14 (h) Publicly-funded medical schools should be required to teach the most current

15 evidence-based, life-saving methods including abortion pill reversal.

16 (2) Therefore, the Legislature finds and declares it necessary to require all publicly-funded  
17 medical schools to teach standard high-risk pregnancy treatment methods including abortion pill  
18 reversal, treatment of ectopic pregnancies, and miscarriage treatment.

19 (3) The Legislature also finds and declares that:

20 (a) Unfortunately, some preborn children develop prenatal conditions which are  
21 considered life-limiting, where the preborn child will not survive birth or survive long after birth;

22 (b) The majority of prenatal diagnoses for life-limiting conditions are false positives; and

23 (c) Parents are known to process grief and heal from the loss of their child leading to better  
24 mental health outcomes when they are allowed to see their child after birth.

25 (4) Therefore, the Legislature finds and declares it necessary to require all publicly-funded  
26 medical schools to teach perinatal hospice as an essential part of pre and postnatal care.

**§18B-22-2.**

**Definitions.**

1 As used in this article:

2 "Abortion pill reversal" means the procedure developed by Dr. George Delgado, MD where  
3 high dose oral progesterone is prescribed to a woman within 72 hours of taking mifepristone to  
4 reverse the effects of the medication abortion via competitive enzyme inhibition.

5 "Ectopic pregnancy treatment" means to the following procedures: salpingostomy,  
6 salpingectomy, or treatment via methotrexate.

7 "Informed consent" means the process in which a physician conveys the risks, benefits  
8 and alternatives to a procedure, especially medication abortion.

9 "Medication abortion" means the two-pill process of mifepristone or misoprostol (or any  
10 medication or combination developed thereafter) in which the hormone progesterone is blocked  
11 during a pregnancy with the intention of ending the life of a preborn child.

12 "Miscarriage treatment" means the use if a dilation and curettage procedure to be used  
13 only in the case where first line of treatment procedures including expectant and medical

14 management are ineffective.

15 "Perinatal hospice" means palliative care provided to preborn children who are expected to  
16 be born with life-limiting conditions but are given the opportunity at life, allowing parents to be  
17 parents.

18 "Publicly-funded medical school" means any medical education institution which received  
19 local, state, or federal funding.

**§18B-22-3. Consequences for Noncompliance of Standard Education Practices.**

1 Any publicly-funded medical school which does not comply and implement standard  
2 education practices by aiding in the education of their students regarding abortion pill reversal  
3 shall face the possibility of losing state funding following review by the Legislative Oversight  
4 Commission on Education Accountability.

**§18B-22-4. Safety clause.**

1 The Legislature hereby finds, determines, and declares that this article is necessary for the  
2 immediate preservation, of the public peace, health, or safety.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require publicly-funded medical schools to teach the most current evidence-based, life-saving methods including abortion pill reverse.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.