



|| SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
BILL SUMMARY

**Senate Bill 3**  
**Printer's No. 283**

Prime Sponsor: Senator Brooks  
Committee: Judiciary

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**SYNOPSIS:**

This bill amends the Abortion Control Act in Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to change the gestational limit for elective abortions and to prohibit the practice of dismemberment abortions.

**SUMMARY:**

*Gestational Age*

Current law prohibits an individual from performing or inducing an abortion upon another person when the gestational age of the unborn child is 24 or more weeks, unless the abortion is performed to protect the mother from death or a substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function. This bill changes the gestational age limit to 20 weeks.

*Dismemberment Abortions*

The bill adds a new Section 3211.1 to prohibit "dismemberment abortions," which the bill defines as "the act of knowingly and purposefully causing the death of an unborn child by means of dismembering the unborn child and extracting the unborn child one piece at a time from the uterus through the use of clamps, grasping forceps, tongs, scissors or similar instruments." The term does not include an abortion that is performed exclusively through suction curettage. A violation of Section 3211.1 is graded as a felony of the third degree.

When the gestational age of the unborn child is less than 20 weeks, Section 3211.1 prohibits dismemberment abortion unless two physicians agree that the abortion is necessary to prevent either the death of the pregnant woman or the substantial or irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the woman.

*Liability*

The following individuals will not be liable for performing or attempting to perform a dismemberment abortion:

- The patient upon whom the dismemberment abortion is performed or attempted to be performed
- A nurse, technician, secretary or receptionist who is not a physician but is acting at the direction of the physician
- A pharmacist or other individual who fills a prescription or provides instruments or materials used in a dismemberment abortion at the direction of a physician.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

This bill is effective in 60 days.

**BILL HISTORY:**

None.

Prepared by: Cawley 2/3/2017