

Alaska State Legislature

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Sponsor Statement for HB250 Alaska Life at Conception Act of 2017

This bill brings state law into conformity with the Constitution of the State of Alaska, which provides that “all persons have a natural right to life”, “all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights” and “all persons are entitled to equal...protection under the law.” It makes clear, in accordance with established science, that human life begins at conception, and that a child waiting to be born in Alaska is an Alaska resident if the mother of that child is an Alaska resident. Further, that child may not be transported to another state or country for the purposes of taking the life of that child. Taking the life of a child waiting to be born incurs the same penalties as taking the life of any other person.

The Alaska Life at Conception Act also reminds the courts that the Constitution of the State of Alaska specifically gives the legislature the responsibility of implementing the constitutional right to privacy. In defining the right to privacy, the Alaska Life at Conception Act makes unmistakably clear that the right to privacy offers no protection to an individual attempting to take the life of a child waiting to be born in Alaska.

Once passed, this law provides that any lawsuit alleging that this law violates the Constitution of the State of Alaska may only be heard by the Alaska Supreme Court in a process specifically laid out in this law. State officials who enforce this law are provided immunity from prosecution for good faith actions taken while in the performance of their duties. The State of Alaska has a duty to protect the life of every Alaskan, and the Alaska Life at Conception Act of 2017 provides the means for the state to fulfill this duty.

Sponsor Statement for HB251 Responsible Judges Act

The Responsible Judges Act provides that any Alaska judge or justice who exercises legislative power is guilty of malfeasance and may be impeached by the legislature and removed from office in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Alaska. It also makes clear that impeachment of a judge or justice by the legislature may not be overturned by the courts.