

General Assembly passes ‘clarification’ of abortion laws

BY SARAH LADD
KENTUCKY LANTERN
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Kentucky legislature approves late-breaking ‘clarification’ of state abortion law

In response to what one Republican called “a desperate need for clarity” in Kentucky abortion law, the General Assembly has approved language detailing the ban’s “life of the mother” exception and specifying some situations when doctors may end complex pregnancies.

Once a bill only to pave the way for freestanding birth centers in Kentucky, House Bill 90 now carries the abortion clarification language.

The legislation can now go to Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear for a signature or veto. He said he couldn’t say what he’ll do when asked about it during a weekly news conference Thursday, but he does have questions.

He pointed out that Kentucky’s abortion ban still would have no exceptions for victims of rape or incest, exceptions he has openly supported.

“Even with this bill, it would be significantly less access than virtually every other state in the United States,” Beshear said.

He also said he has questions about whether the new language would clarify or confuse the legal picture for health care providers.

“We were told by those that passed the trigger law originally that it provided an exception for the life of the mother, and now this bill is saying that it needs to be passed through law,” Beshear said. “So one question I’m going to have is: Is it more or less restrictive than the current understanding in the medical community that we have right now?”

‘DOCTORS JUST NEED TO BE DOCTORS’

All Democrats in the Republican-controlled Senate passed on the vote Thursday morning, saying they hadn’t had time to review the changes, which were first made public Wednesday, or to understand if the amendment would help or hurt pregnant women and

medical providers.

“There is a desperate need for clarity on a lot of ... medical issues that come up during the course of a pregnancy,” said Sen. Julie Raque Adams, R-Louisville, who carried HB 90 in the Senate. “There is a lot of misinformation out there in the medical community, and doctors just need to be doctors. And so this language that’s before us today adds some much needed clarity for the medical community.”

The House, which voted to concur with the Senate a few hours later, was less united with two Republicans opposing the changes and one Democrat supporting it.

Rep. Rachel Roarx, D-Louisville, said it’s currently “terrifying” to be someone who can become pregnant in the state” and voted in favor of the bill “because if it does grant a pregnant individual the opportunity to have lifesaving care, then we need to do that.”

Rep. Kim King, R-Harrodsburg, meanwhile, voted against the bill, saying the “changes don’t really expand or protect pro-life measures here in Kentucky.”

Health care professionals in Kentucky and beyond have long said the state’s abortion laws are too medically vague and inhibit their ability to properly treat miscarriages, hemorrhages and other emergencies.

The clarification language was first added to a different bill Wednesday, but that bill — House Bill 414 — has yet to clear a chamber.

The clarification still instructs health care providers to “make reasonable medical efforts under the circumstances to preserve both the life of the mother and the life of the unborn child.”

But it specifies that doctors can intervene to remove molar and ectopic pregnancies, manage miscarriages, treat sepsis and hemorrhage and more.

It also leaves the determination of an emergency to “the physician’s reasonable medical judgment.”

In a statement after the passage of HB 90, Amber Duke, executive director

of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky, said the changes demonstrate “the Kentucky General Assembly recognizes that when people experience pregnancy complications that put their lives at risk, they should receive appropriate medical care.”

“However, this bill does nothing to restore the right to abortion in the commonwealth,” Duke said. “We will continue to fight to ensure that all Kentuckians, regardless of their circumstances, will be able to receive the abortion care that they need.”

‘IT CAN’T BE RUSHED’

Since the U.S. Supreme Court ushered in Kentucky’s near-total abortion ban in 2022 by overturning the federal right to abortion, Republican legislative leaders have kept bills proposing exceptions to the ban bottled up — until Wednesday when two committees approved what Republicans say is clarifying language.

During the House debate, Rep. Matthew Lehman, D-Newport, said the proposed change was “shoved in our face.”

“This body is the reason these women are in danger,” he said. “We don’t give credit to firemen when they put out a fire that they started. The terrible part of this bill is we’re expecting women to get sick or be on the brink of death before they are allowed to make choices on their body.”

Rep. Nancy Tate, R-Brandenburg, who sponsored HB 414, said that “under no circumstances is this language expected or intended to be prescriptive.”

“Within this language, it says that ‘reasonable medical judgment’ means the range of conclusions or recommendations that licensed medical practitioners with similar sufficient training and experience may communicate to a patient based upon current and available medical evidence,” Tate said. “There’s also a clause within this language that says that in cases of emergencies, that the reasonable medical judgment can be used.”

That change, Tate said, will “save lives.”

Rep. Sarah Stalker, D-Louisville, said she would have supported HB 90 if it was still just a freestanding birth center bill, but voted against it with the abortion edits, calling the changes “false hope.”

“We are seeing this happening at a national level, and it’s terrifying. You have to pay attention to the language and the words that are being used very intentionally in this legislation to avoid medically accurate terminology, to make it appear as if women still have protections, as if people still have choices in certain circumstances when they do not,” she said.

In the Senate, Sen. Cassie Chambers Armstrong, D-Louisville, said

she would support anything that “will save the lives of pregnant women in this state” but she felt the language was rushed through the process.

Chambers Armstrong said she hadn’t received the bill substitute in time to understand it and consult with experts, slamming “an intentional choice by the majority party in the way this legislation was moved to disenfranchise me and the people I represent on this very important issue.”

“I really hope that this bill does take a step forward in terms of allowing doctors to provide lifesaving care. I truly hope that that is what this legislation does. However, I don’t know that,” she said.


In committees Wednesday, Dr. Jeffrey M. Gold-

berg, the legislative advocacy chair for the Kentucky chapter of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), said the language isn’t perfect and will need more work. But, he said, physicians already work under such ambiguity that something has to be done.

Sen. Karen Berg, D-Louisville, said the effort at clarity is still “full of words that have no meaning to a physician.”

“It’s an excellent effort to fix a huge — huge — problem of our own making,” said Berg, who is also a doctor. “But it can’t be rushed. It needs to be right.”

McKenna Horsley contributed to this story.



LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
MARCH, 2025

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: ROBERT PARIS HALL, DECEASED, OF 3 WILDERNESS LOOP WADDY, KY 40076 MUST FILE SAME WITH: JEAN UNGLAUB 3 WILDERNESS LOOP WADDY, KY 40076 AS ADMINISTRATRIX APPOINTED ON 3/26/2025 THROUGH JAMES LIBEMAN ATTORNEY OF 403 WEST MAIN STREET FRANKFORT, KY 40601 ON OR BEFORE 9/26/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: KENNETH ALLEN OLIVER, DECEASED, OF 204 JEAN STREET LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH ELIZABETH OLIVER 204 JEAN STREET LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS PETITIONER APPOINTED ON 3/26/2025 THROUGH N/A ON OR BEFORE 9/26/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: ALBERTA EARLEEN PEYTON DECEASED, OF 105 WHITNEY DR. LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH DEBORAH TAYLOR 1041 LANES MILL RD LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS EXECUTRIX APPOINTED ON 3/26/2025 THROUGH DOROTHY WATTS ATTORNEY OF 148 S. MAIN STREET LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 ON OR BEFORE 9/26/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: RONALD LEE ERWIN, DECEASED, 1122 THREE CORNER DR. LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH TAB DEE ERWIN 1122 THREE CORNER DR. LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS EXECUTRIX APPOINTED ON 3/26/2025 THROUGH CHRISTOPHER HAYDEN ATTORNEY OF 1041 Goss Ave, Louisville, KY 40217 ON OR BEFORE 9/26/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: FOREST NELSON HORSEMAN, DECEASED, OF 3110 WINNING COLORS, LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH PHILLIP HORSEMAN 404 VAIL DR., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS PETITIONER APPOINTED ON 3/26/2025 THROUGH N/A ON OR BEFORE 9/26/2025

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: RICHARD R. WARREN, DECEASED, 1110 CREEKSIDE DR. LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH DEANA G. TAYLOR 5073 ABINGTON RIDGE LN FRANKLIN, TN 37067 AS EXECUTRIX APPOINTED ON 3/19/2025 THROUGH DEREK HUMFLEET ATTORNEY OF P.O. BOX 54654 LEXINGTON, KY 40555 ON OR BEFORE 9/19/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: OTIS WATTS, DECEASED, 1100 McDONALD RD. LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH ASHELY WATTS 148 HAMBLIN WAY LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS EXECUTRIX APPOINTED ON 3/19/2025 THROUGH DEREK HUMFLEET ATTORNEY OF P.O. BOX 54654 LEXINGTON, KY 40555 ON OR BEFORE 9/19/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: LOIS D. NEWTON, DECEASED, 1070 NEW LIBERTY RD., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH DANNY NEWTON 1441 FAIRMOUNT RD., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED ON 3/19/2025 THROUGH DAVID NUTGRASS ATTORNEY OF 123 S. MAIN ST. LAWRENCEBURG, KY ON OR BEFORE 9/19/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: RICKY LEE COFFMAN, DECEASED, 1035 ASHBY RD, LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH LORRAINE COFFMAN, 1035 ASHBY RD, LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS PETITIONER APPOINTED ON 3/19/2025 THROUGH N/A ON OR BEFORE 9/19/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: SANDRA KAY CLARK, DECEASED, 1335 BEAVER LAKE RD., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH RICHARD CLARK 1335 BEAVER LAKE RD., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS PETITIONER APPOINTED ON 3/19/2025 THROUGH N/A 9/19/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: BETTY L. HATTER, DECEASED, 1162 JENNY LILLARD RD., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH ROBBY HATTER 1652 FAIRVIEW RD, LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS PETITIONER APPOINTED ON 3/19/2025 THROUGH WILLIAM PATRICK ATTORNEY OF 307 SOUTH MAIN ST., LAWRENCEBURG, KY ON OR BEFORE 9/19/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: ANNA PEARL CROUCH, DECEASED, 407 E. WOODFORD ST., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH LYDON CROUCH 9560 US HIGHWAY 27 S. WAYNESBURG, KY 40489 AS EXECUTOR APPOINTED ON 3/19/2025 THROUGH WILLIAM PATRICK ATTORNEY OF 307 SOUTH MAIN ST., LAWRENCEBURG, KY ON OR BEFORE 9/19/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: COREY DALE TIPPERY, DECEASED, 1066 TERRI LN., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH DEBORAH TIPPERY P.O. BOX 24 335 SPRINGPORT RD, PERRY PARK, KY 40363 AS PETITIONER APPOINTED ON 3/19/2025 THROUGH N/A 9/19/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: BESSIE M. MORRIS, DECEASED, 133 SOUTH MAIN ST., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH DAVID MORRIS 4080 TYRONE PIKE VERSAILLES, KY 40383 AS PETITIONER APPOINTED ON 3/19/2025 THROUGH WILLIAM MOORE ATTORNEY OF 100 UNITED DRIVE, SUITE 3A VERSAILLES, KY 40383 ON OR BEFORE 9/19/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: TERRY WAYNE WILLIFORD, DECEASED, 4106 STONE TRACE DR., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH DAVID BRUCE WILLIFORD 4106 STONE TRACE DR., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS PETITIONER APPOINTED ON 3/5/2025 THROUGH N/A ON OR BEFORE 9/5/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: DEBORAH J. MADDOX, DECEASED, 311 HUMSTON DR., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH SUSAN D. FAULKNER 111 JENNIFER DR., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS EXECUTRIX APPOINTED ON 3/5/2025 THROUGH WILLIAM PATRICK ATTORNEY OF 307 SOUTH MAIN ST., LAWRENCEBURG, KY ON OR BEFORE 9/5/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: MALLIE K. HODSON, DECEASED, 3747 BARDSTOWN RD. LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH THOMAS STRATTON 3747 BARDSTOWN RD. LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS PETITIONER APPOINTED ON 3/5/2025 THROUGH WILLIAM PATRICK ATTORNEY OF 307 SOUTH MAIN ST., LAWRENCEBURG, KY ON OR BEFORE 9/5/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: CHARLES WELLS SR., DECEASED, 1509 ALTON RD. LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH WILLIAM LESLIE WELLS 1523 ALTON RD. LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS EXECUTOR APPOINTED ON 3/5/2025 THROUGH WILLIAM PATRICK ATTORNEY OF 307 SOUTH MAIN ST., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 ON OR BEFORE 9/5/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: DUDLEY BRUCE DARNELL, DECEASED, OF 169 CLAYLICK RD. SALVISA, KY 40372 MUST FILE SAME WITH KAREN ELAINE DARNELL 169 CLAYLICK RD. SALVISA, KY 40372 AS PETITIONER APPOINTED ON 3/5/2025 THROUGH DOROTHY WATTS ATTORNEY OF 148 S. MAIN STREET LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 ON OR BEFORE 9/5/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: CARL HORSEMAN, DECEASED, OF 2600 BARDSTOWN RD., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH BRANDON HORSEMAN 204 MORNINGSIDE DR. LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AND TANYA JEFFRIES 1194 CFARE MILL RD., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS CO-EXECUTORS APPOINTED ON 3/5/2025 THROUGH KYLE T. THOMPSON ATTORNEY OF 409 HOLMES ST. FRANKFORT, KY 40601 ON OR BEFORE 9/5/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: STEPHEN LANCE SMALL, DECEASED, 502 PAWNEE DR., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH JEREMIAH AND HEATHER STEELE 502 PAWNEE DR., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS CO-EXECUTORS APPOINTED ON 3/5/2025 THROUGH CHARLOTTE NICKERSON ATTORNEY OF 148 SOUTH MAIN ST., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 ON OR BEFORE 9/5/2025.

PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF: JANE POULTER CHISHOLM, DECEASED, 1192 MCCORMICK LN., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 MUST FILE SAME WITH WILLIAM PATRICK 307 SOUTH MAIN ST., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 AS EXECUTOR APPOINTED ON 3/5/2025 THROUGH WILLIAM PATRICK ATTORNEY OF 307 SOUTH MAIN ST., LAWRENCEBURG, KY 40342 ON OR BEFORE 9/5/2025.

***THIS NOTICE IS PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH KRS 424.340.

PAMELA J. ROBINSON
ANDERSON DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Anderson County Fiscal Court is currently accepting application for a fulltime; Salary Exempt position which will include the following duties:

ESSENTIAL DUTIES: (to be able to achieve the desired results of job) Directly responsible for the organization, direction, supervision and control of the Anderson County Department of Public Safety. This position is a safety sensitive position.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: (required to perform Essential Duties): Kentucky Certified Paramedic, BTLIS Instructor, ACLS Instructor, PALS Instructor. Maintain office hours as set by the County Judge/Executive, but required to work the necessary number of hours to accomplish needed tasks. Must be a resident of Anderson County while serving as the Director of Public Safety.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Specific duties include, but are not limited to: Directly responsible for the organization, direction, supervision and control of the Anderson County Department of Public Safety. Formulate and implement EMS, Emergency Management policies for the department; review time sheets, and authorize all overtime, maintain office hours as set by the County Judge/Executive, but required to work the necessary number of hours to accomplish the needed tasks assigned; review financial related to all aspects of departmental functions; serve as public relations spokesman for the department. Attend meetings of the Anderson County Fiscal Court as required; approve purchase of supplies and equipment for the Department of Public Safety. Recommends rates and fees according to EMS needs and ability of residents to pay. Maintain a good working relationship with the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, Department of Environmental Protection, and Division of Emergency Management. Maintain Kentucky Paramedic Certification. Remains aware of changes in the delivery of patients care and directs EMS accordingly. Responsible for the administration of the annual EMS, Emergency Management, budgets. Responsible for supervision of the preparation and submission of all reports and forms required/requested by the County Judge/Executive or state or federal agencies for each division of the Department of Public Safety. Must maintain a current Kentucky Operator's License and charges of a DUI or illegal drug possession charge will result in the immediate suspension of the right to perform advanced life support procedures and all driving privileges of county owned vehicles, conviction of a DUI or illegal drug possession will result in termination of employment with the Anderson County Fiscal Court, reviews as necessary the quality assurance reports for EMS operations and maintains a working knowledge of all reports kept by the various division of the Department of Public Safety; insures that a program of in-service training for the EMS staff is in place to maintain current state certifications and up-to-date techniques in the EMS field. Serves as the Emergency Manager for Anderson County, Kentucky within scope of responsibilities set forth in KRS Chapter 39. Must have a good knowledge of all street and road locations in Anderson County. Performs other administrative duties as assigned by the County Judge/Executive and the Anderson County Fiscal Court.

Applications will be accepted at the Office of the County Judge/Executive, 137 South Main Street, Lawrenceburg, Kentucky 40342 until Thursday, April 17, 2025 until 4:00 p.m. Any questions, contact the County Judge/Executive's Office during normal business hours 8:00 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. @ 502-839-3471.