AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to enacting the reproductive health act and revising existing provisions of law regarding abortion; to amend the penal law, the criminal procedure law, the county law and the judiciary law, in relation to abortion; to repeal certain provisions of the public health law relating to abortion; to repeal certain provisions of the education law relating to the sale of contraceptives; and to repeal certain provisions of the penal law relating to abortion

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.
Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds that comprehensive reproductive health care, including contraception and abortion, is a fundamental component of a woman's health, privacy and equality. The New York Constitution and United States Constitution protect a woman's fundamental right to access safe, legal abortion, courts have repeatedly reaffirmed this right and further emphasized that states may not place undue burdens on women seeking to access such right.

Moreover, the legislature finds, as with other medical procedures, the safety of abortion is furthered by evidence-based practices developed and supported by medical professionals. Abortion is one of the safest medical procedures performed in the United States; the goal of medical regulation should be to improve the quality and availability of health care services.

Furthermore, the legislature declares that it is the public policy of New York State that every individual possesses a fundamental right of privacy and equality with respect to their personal reproductive decisions and should be able to safely effectuate those decisions, including by seeking and obtaining abortion care, free from discrimination in the provision of health care.

Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to prevent the enforcement of laws or regulations that are not in furtherance of a legitimate state interest in protecting a woman's health that burden abortion access.

§ 2. The public health law is amended by adding a new article 25-A to read as follows:

ARTICLE 25-A
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT

Section 2599-aa. Policy and purpose.

2599-bb. Abortion.

§ 2599-aa. Policy and purpose. The legislature finds that comprehensive reproductive health care is a fundamental component of every individual's health, privacy and equality. Therefore, it is the policy of the state that:

1. Every individual has the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraception or sterilization.

2. Every individual who becomes pregnant has the fundamental right to choose to carry the pregnancy to term, to give birth to a child, or to have an abortion, pursuant to this article.

3. The state shall not discriminate against, deny, or interfere with the exercise of the rights set forth in this section in the regulation or provision of benefits, facilities, services or information.

§ 2599-bb. Abortion. 1. A health care practitioner licensed, certified, or authorized under title eight of the education law, acting within his or her lawful scope of practice, may perform an abortion when, according to the practitioner's reasonable and good faith professional judgment based on the facts of the patient's case: the patient is within twenty-four weeks from the commencement of pregnancy, or there is an absence of fetal viability, or the abortion is necessary to protect the patient's life or health.

2. This article shall be construed and applied consistent with and subject to applicable laws and applicable and authorized regulations governing health care procedures.

§ 3. Section 4164 of the public health law is REPEALED.

§ 4. Subdivision 8 of section 6811 of the education law is REPEALED.
§ 5. Sections 125.40, 125.45, 125.50, 125.55 and 125.60 of the penal law are REPEALED, and the article heading of article 125 of the penal law is amended to read as follows:

HOMICIDE[—ABORTION] AND RELATED OFFENSES

§ 6. Section 125.00 of the penal law is amended to read as follows:

§ 125.00 Homicide defined.

Homicide means conduct which causes the death of a person [or an unborn child with which a female has been pregnant for more than twenty-four weeks] under circumstances constituting murder, manslaughter in the first degree, manslaughter in the second degree, or criminally negligent homicide[—abortion in the first degree or self-abortion in the first degree].

§ 7. The section heading, opening paragraph and subdivision 1 of section 125.05 of the penal law are amended to read as follows:

Homicide[—abortion] and related offenses; [definitions of terms] definition.

The following [definitions are] definition is applicable to this article:

[1.] "Person," when referring to the victim of a homicide, means a human being who has been born and is alive.

§ 7-a. Subdivisions 2 and 3 of section 125.05 of the penal law are REPEALED.

§ 8. Subdivision 2 of section 125.15 of the penal law is REPEALED.

§ 9. Subdivision 3 of section 125.20 of the penal law is REPEALED.

§ 10. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 8 of section 700.05 of the criminal procedure law, as amended by chapter 189 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Any of the following felonies: assault in the second degree as defined in section 120.05 of the penal law, assault in the first degree as defined in section 120.10 of the penal law, reckless endangerment in the first degree as defined in section 120.25 of the penal law, promoting a suicide attempt as defined in section 120.30 of the penal law, strangulation in the second degree as defined in section 121.12 of the penal law, strangulation in the first degree as defined in section 121.13 of the penal law, criminally negligent homicide as defined in section 121.10 of the penal law, manslaughter in the second degree as defined in section 121.15 of the penal law, manslaughter in the first degree as defined in section 121.20 of the penal law, murder in the second degree as defined in section 125.25 of the penal law, murder in the first degree as defined in section 125.27 of the penal law, abortion in the second degree as defined in section 125.40 of the penal law, abortion in the first degree as defined in section 125.45 of the penal law, rape in the third degree as defined in section 130.25 of the penal law, rape in the second degree as defined in section 130.30 of the penal law, rape in the first degree as defined in section 130.35 of the penal law, criminal sexual act in the third degree as defined in section 130.40 of the penal law, criminal sexual act in the second degree as defined in section 130.45 of the penal law, criminal sexual act in the first degree as defined in section 130.50 of the penal law, sexual abuse in the first degree as defined in section 130.65 of the penal law, unlawful imprisonment in the first degree as defined in section 135.10 of the penal law, kidnapping in the second degree as defined in section 135.20 of the penal law, kidnapping in the first degree as defined in section 135.25 of the penal law, labor trafficking as defined in section 135.35 of the penal law, aggravated labor trafficking as defined in section 135.37 of the penal law, custodial interference in the first
1 degree as defined in section 135.50 of the penal law, coercion in the
2 first degree as defined in section 135.65 of the penal law, criminal
3 trespass in the first degree as defined in section 140.17 of the penal
4 law, burglary in the third degree as defined in section 140.20 of the
5 penal law, burglary in the second degree as defined in section 140.25 of
6 the penal law, burglary in the first degree as defined in section 140.30
7 of the penal law, criminal mischief in the third degree as defined in
8 section 145.05 of the penal law, criminal mischief in the second degree
9 as defined in section 145.10 of the penal law, criminal mischief in the
10 first degree as defined in section 145.12 of the penal law, criminal
11 tampering in the first degree as defined in section 145.20 of the penal
12 law, arson in the fourth degree as defined in section 150.05 of the
13 penal law, arson in the third degree as defined in section 150.10 of the
14 penal law, arson in the second degree as defined in section 150.15 of
15 the penal law, arson in the first degree as defined in section 150.20 of
16 the penal law, grand larceny in the fourth degree as defined in section
17 155.30 of the penal law, grand larceny in the third degree as defined in
18 section 155.35 of the penal law, grand larceny in the second degree as
19 defined in section 155.40 of the penal law, grand larceny in the first
20 degree as defined in section 155.42 of the penal law, health care fraud
21 in the fourth degree as defined in section 177.10 of the penal law,
22 health care fraud in the third degree as defined in section 177.15 of
23 the penal law, health care fraud in the second degree as defined in
24 section 177.20 of the penal law, health care fraud in the first degree
25 as defined in section 177.25 of the penal law, robbery in the third
26 degree as defined in section 160.05 of the penal law, robbery in the
27 second degree as defined in section 160.10 of the penal law, robbery in
28 the first degree as defined in section 160.15 of the penal law, unlawful
29 use of secret scientific material as defined in section 165.07 of the
30 penal law, criminal possession of stolen property in the fourth degree
31 as defined in section 165.45 of the penal law, criminal possession of
32 stolen property in the third degree as defined in section 165.50 of the
33 penal law, criminal possession of stolen property in the second degree
34 as defined by section 165.52 of the penal law, trademark counterfeiting in the second degree as defined in
35 section 165.72 of the penal law, trademark counterfeiting in the first
36 degree as defined in section 165.73 of the penal law, forgery in the
37 second degree as defined in section 170.10 of the penal law, forgery in
38 the first degree as defined in section 170.15 of the penal law, criminal
39 possession of a forged instrument in the second degree as defined in
40 section 170.25 of the penal law, criminal possession of a forged instru-
41 ment in the first degree as defined in section 170.30 of the penal law,
42 criminal possession of forgery devices as defined in section 170.40 of
43 the penal law, falsifying business records in the first degree as
44 defined in section 175.10 of the penal law, tampering with public
45 records in the first degree as defined in section 175.25 of the penal
46 law, offering a false instrument for filing in the first degree as
47 defined in section 175.35 of the penal law, issuing a false certificate
48 as defined in section 175.40 of the penal law, criminal diversion of
49 prescription medications and prescriptions in the second degree as
50 defined in section 178.20 of the penal law, criminal diversion of
51 prescription medications and prescriptions in the first degree as
52 defined in section 178.25 of the penal law, residential mortgage fraud
53 in the fourth degree as defined in section 187.10 of the penal law,
54 residential mortgage fraud in the third degree as defined in section
§ 11. Subdivision 1 of section 673 of the county law, as added by chapter 545 of the laws of 1965, is amended to read as follows:

1. A coroner or medical examiner has jurisdiction and authority to investigate the death of every person dying within his county, or whose body is found within the county, which is or appears to be:

(a) A violent death, whether by criminal violence, suicide or casualty;

(b) A death caused by unlawful act or criminal neglect;

(c) A death occurring in a suspicious, unusual or unexplained manner;

(d) [A death caused by suspected criminal abortion];

(e) A death while unattended by a physician, so far as can be discovered, or where no physician able to certify the cause of death as provided in the public health law and in form as prescribed by the commissioner of health can be found;

§ 12. Section 4 of the judiciary law, as amended by chapter 264 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read as follows:

§ 4. Sittings of courts to be public. The sittings of every court within this state shall be public, and every citizen may freely attend the same, except that in all proceedings and trials in cases for divorce, seduction, rape, criminal sexual act, bastardy or filiation, the court may, in its discretion, exclude therefrom all persons who are not directly interested therein, excepting jurors, witnesses, and officers of the court.

§ 13. Severability. If any provision of this act, or any application of any provision of this act, is held to be invalid, that shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of any other provision of this act, or of any other application of any provision of this act, which can be given effect without that provision or application; and to that end, the provisions and applications of this act are severable.
§ 14. This act shall take effect immediately.