

STATE OF NEW YORK

1066--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

January 9, 2023

Introduced by Sens. MAYER, FERNANDEZ, GIANARIS, GOUNARDES, KRUEGER, SEPULVEDA, STAVISKY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Health -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, the executive law, the civil practice law and rules, the insurance law and the education law, in relation to legally protected health activity providers

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

1 Section 1. Section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, as added by
2 chapter 219 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 570.17 Extradition [~~of abortion providers~~] for legally protected
4 health activity.

5 [~~No~~] 1. For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have
6 the following meanings:

7 (a) "Reproductive health services" shall mean and include all
8 services, care, or products of a medical, surgical, psychiatric, thera-
9 peutic, diagnostic, mental health, behavioral health, preventative,
10 rehabilitative, supportive, consultative, referral, prescribing, or
11 dispensing nature relating to the human reproductive system provided in
12 accordance with the constitution and the laws of this state, whether
13 provided in person or by means of telehealth or telehealth services,
14 which includes, but is not limited to, all services, care and products
15 relating to pregnancy, assisted reproduction, contraception, miscarriage
16 management or the termination of a pregnancy, and self-managed termi-
17 nations.

18 (b) "Legally protected health activity" shall mean and include the
19 following acts and omissions by providers and facilitators of reproduc-
20 tive health services, to the extent they are not in violation of the

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [~~-~~] is old law to be omitted.

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1 constitution or the laws of this state, provided that such provider is
2 physically present in the state:

3 (i) the exercise or attempted exercise by any person of rights to
4 reproductive health services as secured by the constitution or laws of
5 this state or the provision of insurance coverage for such services or
6 care; and

7 (ii) any act or omission undertaken to aid or encourage, or attempt to
8 aid or encourage, any person in the exercise or attempted exercise of
9 rights to reproductive health services as secured by the constitution or
10 laws of this state, or to provide insurance coverage for such services
11 or care; provided, however, that the provision of such reproductive
12 health services by a person duly licensed under the laws of this state
13 and physically present in this state and the provision of insurance
14 coverage for such services or care shall be a legally protected health
15 activity if the service or care is permitted under the laws of this
16 state, regardless of the patient's location.

17 2. Except as required by federal law, no demand for the extradition of
18 a person charged with [~~providing an abortion~~] any legally protected
19 health activity, shall be recognized by the governor unless the execu-
20 tive authority of the demanding state shall allege in writing that the
21 accused was physically present in the demanding state at the time of the
22 commission of the alleged crime, and that thereafter he, she or they
23 fled from that state.

24 § 2. Subdivision 3-a of section 140.10 of the criminal procedure law,
25 as added by chapter 219 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as
26 follows:

27 3-a. A police officer may not arrest any person for [~~performing or~~
28 ~~aiding in the performance of an abortion~~] any legally protected health
29 activity within this state, [~~or in procuring an abortion in this state,~~
30 ~~if the abortion is performed in accordance with the provisions of arti-~~
31 ~~cle twenty five A of the public health law or any other applicable law~~
32 ~~of this state~~] as defined in section 570.17 of this chapter.

33 § 3. Section 837-w of the executive law, as added by chapter 219 of
34 the laws of 2022, is renumbered section 837-x and amended to read as
35 follows:

36 § 837-x. Cooperation with certain out-of-state investigations. 1. For
37 purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the follow-
38 ing meanings:

39 (a) "Reproductive health services" shall have the same meaning as
40 paragraph (a) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the criminal
41 procedure law; and

42 (b) "Legally protected health activity" shall have the same meaning as
43 paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the criminal
44 procedure law.

45 2. No state or local [~~law enforcement agency~~] government employee or
46 entity or other person acting on behalf of state or local government
47 shall cooperate with or provide information to any individual or out-of-
48 state agency or department regarding [~~the provision of a lawful abortion~~
49 ~~performed~~] any legally protected health activity occurring in this
50 state, or otherwise expend or use time, moneys, facilities, property,
51 equipment, personnel or other resources in furtherance of any investi-
52 gation or proceeding that seeks to impose civil or criminal liability or
53 professional sanctions upon a person or entity for any legally protected
54 health activity occurring in this state. Nothing in this section shall
55 prohibit the investigation of any [~~criminal activity in this state which~~
56 ~~may involve the performance of an abortion~~] reproductive health services

1 rendered in violation of the laws of this state, provided that no infor-
2 mation relating to any medical procedure performed on a specific indi-
3 vidual may be shared with an out-of-state agency or any other individ-
4 ual. Nothing in this section shall prohibit compliance with a valid,
5 court-issued subpoena or warrant which does not relate to a law seeking
6 to impose civil or criminal liability or professional sanctions for a
7 legally protected health activity, or in response to the written request
8 of a person who is the subject of such an investigation or proceeding,
9 to the extent necessary, in each case, to fulfill such request.

10 § 4. Subdivision (g) of section 3119 of the civil practice law and
11 rules, as added by chapter 219 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (g) (1) Out-of-state [abortion] proceedings regarding legally
14 protected health activities. Notwithstanding any other provisions of
15 this section or any other law, no court or county clerk shall issue a
16 subpoena under this section in connection with an out-of-state proceed-
17 ing relating to any [~~abortion services or procedures~~] legally protected
18 health activity which [~~were legally performed~~] occurred in this state,
19 unless such out-of-state proceeding [~~(1)~~] (i) sounds in tort or
20 contract[, ~~or is based on statute~~], [~~(2)~~] (ii) is actionable, in an
21 equivalent or similar manner, under the laws of this state, and [~~(3)~~]
22 (iii) was brought by the patient who received reproductive [~~healthcare~~]
23 health services as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision one of
24 section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, or the patient's legal
25 representative, so long as the patient gives express consent.

26 (2) For purposes of this subdivision, the terms "legally protected
27 health activity" and "reproductive health services" shall have the same
28 meanings as defined in subdivision one of section 570.17 of the criminal
29 procedure law.

30 § 5. Subdivision (e) of section 3102 of the civil practice law and
31 rules, as amended by chapter 219 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read
32 as follows:

33 (e) Action pending in another jurisdiction. Except as provided in
34 section three thousand one hundred nineteen of this article, when under
35 any mandate, writ or commission issued out of any court of record in any
36 other state, territory, district or foreign jurisdiction, or whenever
37 upon notice or agreement, it is required to take the testimony of a
38 witness in the state, he or she may be compelled to appear and testify
39 in the same manner and by the same process as may be employed for the
40 purpose of taking testimony in actions pending in the state. The supreme
41 court or a county court shall make any appropriate order in aid of
42 taking such a deposition; provided that no order may be issued under
43 this section in connection with an out-of-state proceeding relating to
44 any [~~abortion services or procedures~~] legally protected health activity,
45 as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the
46 criminal procedure law which [~~were legally performed~~] occurred in this
47 state, unless such out-of-state proceeding (1) sounds in tort or
48 contract[, ~~or is based on statute~~], (2) is actionable, in an equivalent
49 or similar manner, under the laws of this state, and (3) was brought by
50 the patient who received reproductive [~~healthcare~~] health services, or
51 the patient's legal representative.

52 § 6. The civil practice law and rules is amended by adding a new
53 section 4550 to read as follows:

54 § 4550. Admissibility of evidence related to legally protected health
55 activity. Evidence relating to the involvement of a party engaging in
56 one or more legally protected health activity, as defined in paragraph

(b) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, relating to providing reproductive health services to persons not physically present in this state shall not be offered against such party as evidence that such party has engaged in any wrongdoing, whether civil, criminal, professional, or otherwise by virtue of such recipients of such services not being physically present in this state. Nothing in this section shall prevent a party from offering such evidence in a proceeding that (i) sounds in tort or contract, (ii) is actionable, in an equivalent or similar manner, under the laws of this state, and (iii) was brought by the patient who received reproductive health services, or the patient's legal representative.

§ 7. Section 3436-a of the insurance law, as added by chapter 221 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

§ 3436-a. Adverse action against legal reproductive health care. 1. ~~[Adverse action against legal reproductive health care.]~~ (a) Every insurer which issues or renews medical malpractice insurance covering a health care provider licensed to practice in this state, whether the health care provider is covered by a primary, excess or umbrella liability policy, shall be prohibited from taking any adverse action against a health care provider solely on the basis that the health care provider ~~[performs an abortion or provides reproductive health care]~~ provides reproductive health services, as defined in paragraph (a) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, that is legal in the state of New York on someone who is from out of the state. The superintendent is expressly authorized to interpret "reproductive health services" as if such definition was stated within this article.

(b) Such policy shall include health care providers who legally prescribe abortion medication to out-of-state patients by means of telehealth.

2. As used in this section, "adverse action" shall mean but not be limited to: (a) refusing to renew or execute a contract or agreement with a health care provider; (b) making a report or commenting to an appropriate private or governmental entity regarding practices of such provider which may violate abortion laws in other states; and (c) increasing in any charge for, or a reduction or other adverse or unfavorable change in the terms of coverage or amount for, any medical malpractice insurance contract or agreement with a health care provider.

§ 8. Paragraph 36 of subsection (i) of section 3216 of the insurance law, as added by section 1 of part R of chapter 57 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

(36) (A) Every policy which provides hospital, surgical, or medical coverage and which offers maternity coverage pursuant to paragraph ten of this subsection shall also provide coverage for ~~[abortion services]~~ legally protected health activity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, for an enrollee. The superintendent is expressly authorized to interpret "legally protected health activity" as if such definition was stated within this article.

(B) Coverage for ~~[abortion]~~ a legally protected health activity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, shall not be subject to annual deductibles or coinsurance, including co-payments, unless the policy is a high deductible health plan as defined in section 223(c)(2) of the internal revenue code of 1986, in which case coverage for ~~[abortion]~~ a legally protected health activity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of

1 section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law may be subject to the
2 plan's annual deductible.

3 § 9. Paragraph 22 of subsection (k) of section 3221 of the insurance
4 law, as added by section 2 of part R of chapter 57 of the laws of 2022,
5 is amended to read as follows:

6 (22) (A) Every policy which provides hospital, surgical, or medical
7 coverage and which offers maternity care coverage pursuant to paragraph
8 five of this subsection shall also provide coverage for [~~abortion~~
9 ~~services~~] a legally protected health activity, as defined in paragraph
10 (b) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law,
11 for an enrollee. The superintendent is expressly authorized to inter-
12 pret "legally protected health activity" as if such definition was stat-
13 ed within this article.

14 (B) Coverage for [~~abortion~~] a legally protected health activity, as
15 defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the
16 criminal procedure law, shall not be subject to annual deductibles or
17 coinsurance, including co-payments, unless the policy is a high deduct-
18 ible health plan as defined in section 223(c)(2) of the internal revenue
19 code of 1986, in which case coverage for [~~abortion~~] legally protected
20 health activity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of
21 section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, may be subject to the
22 plan's annual deductible.

23 (C) Notwithstanding any other provision, a group policy that provides
24 hospital, surgical, or medical expense coverage delivered or issued for
25 delivery in this state to a religious employer, as defined in item one
26 of subparagraph (E) of paragraph sixteen of subsection (l) of this
27 section, may exclude coverage for [~~abortion~~] legally protected health
28 activity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section
29 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, only if the insurer:

30 (i) obtains an annual certification from the group policyholder that
31 the policyholder is a religious employer and that the religious employer
32 requests a policy without coverage for [~~abortion~~] legally protected
33 health activity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of
34 section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law;

35 (ii) issues a rider to each certificate holder at no premium to be
36 charged to the certificate holder or religious employer for the rider,
37 that provides coverage for [~~abortion~~] legally protected health activity,
38 as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the
39 criminal procedure law, subject to the same rules as would have been
40 applied to the same category of treatment in the policy issued to the
41 religious employer. The rider shall clearly and conspicuously specify
42 that the religious employer does not administer [~~abortion~~] benefits
43 regarding legally protected health activity, as defined in paragraph (b)
44 of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, but
45 that the insurer is issuing a rider for coverage of [~~abortion~~] legally
46 protected health activity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision
47 one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, and shall provide
48 the insurer's contact information for questions; and

49 (iii) provides notice of the issuance of the policy and rider to the
50 superintendent in a form and manner acceptable to the superintendent.

51 § 10. Subsection (ss) of section 4303 of the insurance law, as added
52 by section 3 of part R of chapter 57 of the laws of 2022, is amended to
53 read as follows:

54 (ss)(1) Every policy which provides hospital, surgical, or medical
55 coverage and which offers maternity care coverage pursuant to subsection
56 (c) of this section shall also provide coverage for [~~abortion—services~~]

1 legally protected health activity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivi-
2 vision one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, for an
3 enrollee. The superintendent is expressly authorized to interpret
4 "legally protected health activity" as if such definition was stated
5 within this article.

6 (2) Coverage for [~~abortion~~] legally protected health activity, as
7 defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the
8 criminal procedure law, shall not be subject to annual deductibles or
9 coinsurance, including co-payments, unless the policy is a high deduct-
10 ible health plan as defined in section 223(c)(2) of the internal revenue
11 code of 1986, in which case coverage for [~~abortion~~] legally protected
12 health activity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of
13 section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, may be subject to the
14 plan's annual deductible.

15 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision, a group policy that provides
16 hospital, surgical, or medical expense coverage delivered or issued for
17 delivery in this state to a religious employer, as defined in paragraph
18 five of subsection (cc) of this section, may exclude coverage for
19 [~~abortion~~] legally protected health activity, as defined in paragraph
20 (b) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law,
21 only if the insurer:

22 (A) obtains an annual certification from the group policy holder that
23 the policy holder is a religious employer and that the religious employ-
24 er requests a contract without coverage for [~~abortion~~] legally protected
25 health activity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of
26 section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law;

27 (B) issues a rider to each certificate holder at no premium to be
28 charged to the certificate holder or religious employer for the rider,
29 that provides coverage for [~~abortion~~] legally protected health activ-
30 ity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section 570.17 of
31 the criminal procedure law, subject to the same rules as would have been
32 applied to the same category of treatment in the policy issued to the
33 religious employer. The rider shall clearly and conspicuously specify
34 that the religious employer does not administer [~~abortion~~] benefits
35 regarding legally protected health activity, as defined in paragraph (b)
36 of subdivision one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, but
37 that the insurer is issuing a rider for coverage of [~~abortion~~] legally
38 protected health activity, as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivision
39 one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, and shall provide
40 the insurer's contact information for questions; and

41 (C) provides notice of the issuance of the policy and rider to the
42 superintendent in a form and manner acceptable to the superintendent.

43 § 11. Subdivision 2 of section 6531-b of the education law, as added
44 by chapter 220 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

45 2. The performance, recommendation, or provision of any reproductive
46 health services as defined in subdivision one of this section, or any
47 legally protected health activity as defined in paragraph (b) of subdivi-
48 vision one of section 570.17 of the criminal procedure law, by a health
49 care practitioner acting within their scope of practice, for a patient
50 who resides in a state wherein the performance, recommendation, or
51 provision of such reproductive health services is illegal, shall not, by
52 itself, constitute professional misconduct under this title, or title
53 two-A of article two of the public health law, or any other law, rule or
54 regulation governing the licensure, certification, or authorization of
55 such practitioner, nor shall any license, certification or authorization
56 of a health care practitioner be revoked, suspended, or annulled or

1 otherwise subject to any other penalty or discipline provided in the
2 public health law or this title solely on the basis that such health
3 care practitioner performed, recommended, or provided any such reproduc-
4 tive health services for a patient who resides in a state wherein the
5 performance, recommendation, or provision of such reproductive health
6 services is illegal.

7 § 12. Severability. If any provision of this act, or any application
8 of any provision of this act, is held to be invalid, that shall not
9 affect the validity or effectiveness of any other provision of this act,
10 any other application of any provision of this act, or any other
11 provision of any law or code amended by this act.

12 § 13. Choice of laws. This act shall be exclusively governed by and
13 construed pursuant to the laws of the state of New York, without giving
14 effect to any choice of law principles thereunder.

15 § 14. Conflict of laws. To the extent that any laws in the state of
16 New York conflict with this act, this act shall govern.

17 § 15. This act shall take effect immediately.