

Termination of Pregnancy Bill

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Reduce the time limit for legal terminations of pregnancy from 24 to 20 weeks; to introduce a cooling-off period after the first point of contact with a medical practitioner about a termination; to require the provision of counselling about the medical risk of, and about matters relating to, termination and bringing the pregnancy to term as a condition of informed consent to termination; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Amendment of the Abortion Act 1967

(1) Section 1 of the Abortion Act 1967 (c. 87) (medical termination of pregnancy) is amended as follows—

(a) in subsection (1)(a) for “twenty-fourth week” substitute “twentieth week”;

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(b) after subsection (1)(b) insert—

“(ba) that the pregnant woman, after the first relevant point of contact with a registered medical practitioner, has undertaken a seven-day cooling-off period of informed consent, during which she receives counselling from a registered medical practitioner or health visitor about the respective medical risks of, and about other matters relating to, terminating and carrying a pregnancy to term; or”.

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(c) after subsection (1) insert—

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“(1A) In subsection (1)(ba)—

“the first relevant point of contact” means the earliest occasion on which the possibility of a termination of the pregnant woman’s pregnancy is discussed;

“cooling-off period of informed consent” means a period before the expiry of which the pregnant woman shall

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not be taken to have given informed consent to the termination of her pregnancy.

(1B) The Secretary of State shall by statutory instrument make regulations to establish how the counselling described in subsection (1)(ba) above should be provided.”

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(2) In section 2(4) of that Act, for “section” substitute “Act”.

2 Short title and extent

(1) This Act may be cited as the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2007.

(2) This Act does not extend to Northern Ireland.

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To reduce the time limit for legal terminations of pregnancy from 24 to 20 weeks; to introduce a cooling-off period after the first point of contact with a medical practitioner about a termination; to require the provision of counselling about the medical risk of, and about matters relating to, termination and bringing the pregnancy to term as a condition of informed consent to termination; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Mrs Nadine Dorries,
supported by
Mr Michael Howard, Mr Iain Duncan Smith,
Anne Main, Bob Russell,
Mr John Hayes, Dr Liam Fox,
Mr Edward Vaizey, Mrs Eleanor Laing,
Mike Penning, Mr Mark Field
and Mr Brooks Newmark.*

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