

SENATE No. 868

By Ms. Jacques, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 868) of Cheryl A. Jacques, David B. Cohen, Barbara E. Gray, Lois G. Pines, Jo Ann Sprague, Robert E. Travaglini and Dianne Wilkerson for legislation relative to the choice of a woman to terminate a pregnancy. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The General Laws are hereby amended by adding
2 after Chapter 111I the following chapter: —

3 **CHAPTER 111 J.**
4 **REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE.**

5 Section 1. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the
6 Massachusetts Reproductive Choice Act.

7 Section 2. The right of a woman to choose to terminate a preg-
8 nancy before viability, or at any time if such a termination is nec-
9 essary to protect her life or health, shall not be restricted by any
10 laws, ordinances, or regulations; provided, however, that the pro-
11 visions of this chapter shall not affect (1) the parental consent or
12 judicial authorization requirements governing minors' access to
13 abortion, or, (2) the law permitting any individual or private
14 health care institution to refuse to participate in the performance
15 of an abortion to which they are conscientiously opposed, and the
16 law preventing any discrimination against any such individual or
17 private health care institution.

18 Section 3. Requirements consistent with accepted medical prac-
19 tice may be promulgated by the department of public health to
20 protect a woman's life or health.

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 112 of the General Laws, as appearing in
2 the 1992 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out sec-
3 tion 12 L and inserting in place thereof: — If a pregnancy has
4 existed for less than twenty-four weeks no abortion may be per-
5 formed except by a physician.