

HB 128

Ohio House Bill

The bill, introduced by Representatives Tims and Somani, seeks to amend various sections of the Ohio Revised Code and establish new provisions under the Reproductive Care Act, focusing on abortion and reproductive health protections. Key amendments include the deletion of section 2919.124, which may relate to previous abortion regulations, and the enactment of new sections such as 2305.2312 and 3732.01 through 3732.11. The bill aims to provide clearer guidelines and protections for reproductive care, reflecting a legislative shift towards enhancing reproductive rights and health services in Ohio. It also introduces new legal language defining terms related to reproductive health care and establishes protections for healthcare providers and individuals seeking such care from legal liabilities under specific circumstances.

Additionally, the bill addresses various aspects of healthcare and legal proceedings, including the confidentiality of reproductive health information, the conditions under which healthcare providers may be compelled to testify, and the establishment of a child survival form for children born alive after an abortion. It also modifies existing laws regarding discrimination in employment and housing based on reproductive health decisions, ensuring equal treatment for women affected by pregnancy-related conditions. The legislation aims to create a more supportive legal environment for reproductive health while enhancing protections against discrimination and improving access to telehealth services for reproductive care. Overall, the bill represents a comprehensive reform of Ohio's legal framework surrounding reproductive health and rights.

HB 136

Ohio House Bill

Prohibit sexual orientation or gender identity discrimination

The bill amends sections 4112.01 and 4112.05 of the Revised Code to enhance protections against discrimination by explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. This change aims to safeguard individuals from discriminatory practices in employment and housing contexts. Additionally, the bill introduces mediation as an informal resolution method for the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, improving its capacity to handle complaints. It also reaffirms existing

religious exemptions, allowing religious organizations to uphold their beliefs while complying with anti-discrimination laws, and clarifies that discrimination "because of sex" includes sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

Moreover, the bill revises the procedures for addressing complaints of unlawful discriminatory practices, granting both complainants and respondents the option to choose between an administrative hearing or an alternative process. It clarifies the attorney general's role in representing the commission during hearings and establishes a one-year deadline for filing complaints. The bill outlines hearing procedures, including rights for both parties, evidence admissibility, and the commission's authority to issue orders based on findings. It introduces civil penalties for violations, allows for the dismissal of complaints without probable cause, and permits modifications of findings during the appeal period. Notably, it repeals the existing sections 4112.01 and 4112.05 while maintaining the current religious exemptions in Ohio law.

Statutes affected:

As Introduced: 4112.01, 4112.05