

**BILL SUMMARY**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 55<sup>th</sup> Legislature

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Bill No.:</b>       | <b>HB 2797</b>                                     |
| <b>Version:</b>        | <b>CCS</b>   |
| <b>Request Number:</b> | <b>9897</b>  |
| <b>Author:</b>         | <b>Rep. Coody (Ann) et al</b>                      |
| <b>Date:</b>           | <b>5/9/2016</b>                                    |
| <b>Impact:</b>         | <b>Contingent on availability of approp. funds</b> |

**Research Analysis**

The bill creates the Humanity of the Unborn Child Act. Its implementation is contingent on the availability of funds. Some of the major provisions of the bill include;

- The development of an electronic form by the State Department of Health containing information about public and private agencies and services available to assist women through pregnancy, childbirth, adoption, and childhood. It must be accessible through the Department's website;
- By January 1, 2018, the Department must make available to licensed public facilities that contain a public restroom signage for posting in the restroom containing the statement and website address contained in the bill;
- The development of materials designed to provide accurate, scientifically verifiable information concerning the probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the unborn child at 2 week gestational intervals;
- The development of a public information campaign utilizing PSAs and other media for the purpose of achieving an abortion-free society;
- Distribution of educational and informational material concerning maternal behavior during pregnancy that is helpful to child development in utero, including the avoidance of tobacco, drugs and alcohol;
- The State Department of Education in collaboration with the State Department of Health is to establish an instructional program for students consistent with the provision of the Humanity of the Unborn Child Act. The program is optional and gives local school boards that choose to implement it control over the content, provided the instruction meets certain requirements; and
- It creates an accompanying revolving fund.

Prepared By: Scott Tohlen

**Fiscal Analysis**

CCS for HB 2797 creates the Humanity of the Unborn Child Act. Contingent on the availability of specified appropriated funds, the Department of Health is required to develop, annually update and maintain an electronic form with certain information. On or before January 1, 2018, the Department will make available certain signage to state specified facilities for posting. The Department will develop and make certain materials available, provide specified distributions, technical assistance, outreach, consultation and training, and recommend to the Department of Education certain scientifically verifiable information in the educational standards of science, family and consumer sciences and health classes.

Contingent on availability of specified appropriated funds, the Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health will establish an instructional program for students consistent with this act. Local school boards may choose to implement the specified instructional program. The content of instruction used by local schools for teaching will be at the discretion of the appropriate school board with required provisions. The Public Education on the Humanity of the Unborn Child Fund is created as a revolving fund for the State Board of Education.

Department of Education personnel provide that there is no additional cost to establish the program, but potential costs to school districts cannot be determined. Department of Health personnel have not yet calculated an exact cost related to the provisions of the measure, but do anticipate associated costs.

Prepared By: Andrea Kearney  
Stacy Johnson

### **Other Considerations**

None