

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 857
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Author:	Sen. Standridge
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Bill Analysis

SB 857 creates the Women's Health Protection Act. The measure requires abortion clinics to be licensed by the State Department of Health. Abortion clinics in operation before the effective date of this measure will have ninety days to apply for licensure. The Department may issue a six month, temporary license to a clinic while the Department reviews the clinics compliance. The Department will determine the fees and procedures for application and renewal of a license. A license to operate shall last one year. Revenue from the fees will be deposited in the General Revenue Fund.

The Department is charged with enforcing the act and inspecting abortion clinics. A person operating a clinic without a license is guilty of a misdemeanor. Violations of the act or rules are punishable by civil penalties and injunctive relief. The Attorney General and District Attorney may institute a legal action to enforce collection of civil penalties or fines. The Legislature may appoint members to intervene if the constitutionality of the act is challenged.

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