FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 194

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

0846H.03C

AN ACT

To repeal sections 188.027, 188.036, 188.047, 188.052, 194.375, and 197.230, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof seven new sections relating to abortion, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 188.027, 188.036, 188.047, 188.052, 194.375, and 197.230, RSMo,

- 2 are repealed and seven new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 188.027,
- 3 188.036, 188.047, 188.052, 188.160, 194.375, and 197.230, to read as follows:
 - 188.027. 1. Except in the case of medical emergency, no abortion shall be performed or induced on a woman without her voluntary and informed consent, given freely and without coercion. Consent to an abortion is voluntary and informed and given freely and without coercion if, and only if, at least seventy-two hours prior to the abortion:
 - (1) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional has informed the woman orally[5] and either reduced to writing[5, and] or shown the woman the video created by the department of health and senior services under subsection 13 of this section in person, of the following:
 - (a) The name of the physician who will perform or induce the abortion;
- 10 (b) Medically accurate information that a reasonable patient would consider material to 11 the decision of whether or not to undergo the abortion, including:
 - a. A description of the proposed abortion method;

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- b. The immediate and long-term medical risks to the woman associated with the proposed abortion method including, but not limited to, infection, hemorrhage, cervical tear or
- 15 uterine perforation, harm to subsequent pregnancies or the ability to carry a subsequent child to
- term, and possible adverse psychological effects associated with the abortion; and

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 c. The immediate and long-term medical risks to the woman, in light of the anesthesia 18 and medication that is to be administered, the unborn child's gestational age, and the woman's 19 medical history and medical condition;

- (c) Alternatives to the abortion which shall include making the woman aware that information and materials shall be provided to her detailing such alternatives to the abortion;
- (d) A statement that the physician performing or inducing the abortion is available for any questions concerning the abortion, together with the telephone number that the physician may be later reached to answer any questions that the woman may have;
- (e) The location of the hospital that offers obstetrical or gynecological care located within thirty miles of the location where the abortion is performed or induced and at which the physician performing or inducing the abortion has clinical privileges and where the woman may receive follow-up care by the physician if complications arise;
- (f) The gestational age of the unborn child at the time the abortion is to be performed or induced; [and]
- (g) The anatomical and physiological characteristics of the unborn child at the time the abortion is to be performed or induced; **and**

(h) A description of the disposal process of the aborted fetus;

- (2) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional has presented the woman, in person, [printed] materials provided by the department, which describe the probable anatomical and physiological characteristics of the unborn child at two-week gestational increments from conception to full term, including color photographs or images of the developing unborn child at two-week gestational increments. Such descriptions shall include information about brain and heart functions, the presence of external members and internal organs during the applicable stages of development and information on when the unborn child is viable. The [printed] materials shall prominently display the following statement: "The life of each human being begins at conception. Abortion will terminate the life of a separate, unique, living human being.";
- (3) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional has presented the woman, in person, [printed] materials provided by the department, which describe the various surgical and drug-induced methods of abortion relevant to the stage of pregnancy, as well as the immediate and long-term medical risks commonly associated with each abortion method including, but not limited to, infection, hemorrhage, cervical tear or uterine perforation, harm to subsequent pregnancies or the ability to carry a subsequent child to term, and the possible adverse psychological effects associated with an abortion;
- (4) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional shall provide the woman with the opportunity to view at least seventy-two hours prior to the

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53 abortion an active ultrasound of the unborn child and hear the heartbeat of the unborn child if 54 the heartbeat is audible. The woman shall be provided with a geographically indexed list 55 maintained by the department of health care providers, facilities, and clinics that perform 56 ultrasounds, including those that offer ultrasound services free of charge. Such materials shall 57 provide contact information for each provider, facility, or clinic including telephone numbers and, if available, website addresses. Should the woman decide to obtain an ultrasound from a 59 provider, facility, or clinic other than the abortion facility, the woman shall be offered a 60 reasonable time to obtain the ultrasound examination before the date and time set for performing 61 or inducing an abortion. The person conducting the ultrasound shall ensure that the active 62 ultrasound image is of a quality consistent with standard medical practice in the community, 63 contains the dimensions of the unborn child, and accurately portrays the presence of external 64 members and internal organs, if present or viewable, of the unborn child. The auscultation of fetal heart tone must also be of a quality consistent with standard medical practice in the 66 community. If the woman chooses to view the ultrasound or hear the heartbeat or both at the 67 abortion facility, the viewing or hearing or both shall be provided to her at the abortion facility 68 at least seventy-two hours prior to the abortion being performed or induced;

- (5) Prior to an abortion being performed or induced on an unborn child of twenty-two weeks gestational age or older, the physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional has presented the woman, in person, [printed] materials provided by the department that offer information on the possibility of the abortion causing pain to the unborn child. This information shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:
- (a) At least by twenty-two weeks of gestational age, the unborn child possesses all the anatomical structures, including pain receptors, spinal cord, nerve tracts, thalamus, and cortex, that are necessary in order to feel pain;
- (b) A description of the actual steps in the abortion procedure to be performed or induced, and at which steps the abortion procedure could be painful to the unborn child;
- (c) There is evidence that by twenty-two weeks of gestational age, unborn children seek to evade certain stimuli in a manner that in an infant or an adult would be interpreted as a response to pain;
- (d) Anesthesia is given to unborn children who are twenty-two weeks or more gestational age who undergo prenatal surgery;
- (e) Anesthesia is given to premature children who are twenty-two weeks or more gestational age who undergo surgery;
- 86 (f) Anesthesia or an analgesic is available in order to minimize or alleviate the pain to 87 the unborn child;

(6) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional has presented the woman, in person, [printed] materials provided by the department explaining to the woman alternatives to abortion she may wish to consider. Such materials shall:

- (a) Identify on a geographical basis public and private agencies available to assist a woman in carrying her unborn child to term, and to assist her in caring for her dependent child or placing her child for adoption, including agencies commonly known and generally referred to as pregnancy resource centers, crisis pregnancy centers, maternity homes, and adoption agencies. Such materials shall provide a comprehensive list by geographical area of the agencies, a description of the services they offer, and the telephone numbers and addresses of the agencies; provided that such materials shall not include any programs, services, organizations, or affiliates of organizations that perform or induce, or assist in the performing or inducing of, abortions or that refer for abortions;
- (b) Explain the Missouri alternatives to abortion services program under section 188.325, and any other programs and services available to pregnant women and mothers of newborn children offered by public or private agencies which assist a woman in carrying her unborn child to term and assist her in caring for her dependent child or placing her child for adoption, including but not limited to prenatal care; maternal health care; newborn or infant care; mental health services; professional counseling services; housing programs; utility assistance; transportation services; food, clothing, and supplies related to pregnancy; parenting skills; educational programs; job training and placement services; drug and alcohol testing and treatment; and adoption assistance;
- (c) Identify the state website for the Missouri alternatives to abortion services program under section 188.325, and any toll-free number established by the state operated in conjunction with the program;
- (d) Prominently display the statement: "There are public and private agencies willing and able to help you carry your child to term, and to assist you and your child after your child is born, whether you choose to keep your child or place him or her for adoption. The state of Missouri encourages you to contact those agencies before making a final decision about abortion. State law requires that your physician or a qualified professional give you the opportunity to call agencies like these before you undergo an abortion.";
- (7) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional has presented the woman, in person, [printed] materials provided by the department explaining that the father of the unborn child is liable to assist in the support of the child, even in instances where he has offered to pay for the abortion. Such materials shall include information on the legal duties and support obligations of the father of a child, including, but not limited to, child support payments, and the fact that paternity may be established by the father's name on a birth

certificate or statement of paternity, or by court action. Such [printed] materials shall also state that more information concerning paternity establishment and child support services and enforcement may be obtained by calling the family support division within the Missouri department of social services; and

- (8) The physician who is to perform or induce the abortion or a qualified professional shall inform the woman that she is free to withhold or withdraw her consent to the abortion at any time without affecting her right to future care or treatment and without the loss of any state or federally funded benefits to which she might otherwise be entitled.
- 2. All information required to be provided to a woman considering abortion by subsection 1 of this section shall be presented to the woman individually, in the physical presence of the woman and in a private room, to protect her privacy, to maintain the confidentiality of her decision, to ensure that the information focuses on her individual circumstances, to ensure she has an adequate opportunity to ask questions, and to ensure that she is not a victim of coerced abortion. Should a woman be unable to read materials provided to her, they shall be read to her. Should a woman need an interpreter to understand the information presented in the written materials, an interpreter shall be provided to her. Should a woman ask questions concerning any of the information or materials, answers shall be provided in a language she can understand.
- 3. No abortion shall be performed or induced unless and until the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed or induced certifies in writing on a checklist form provided by the department that she has been presented all the information required in subsection 1 of this section and shall indicate whether the information was provided in writing or via video, that she has been provided the opportunity to view an active ultrasound image of the unborn child and hear the heartbeat of the unborn child if it is audible, and that she further certifies that she gives her voluntary and informed consent, freely and without coercion, to the abortion procedure.
- 4. No abortion shall be performed or induced on an unborn child of twenty-two weeks gestational age or older unless and until the woman upon whom the abortion is to be performed or induced has been provided the opportunity to choose to have an anesthetic or analgesic administered to eliminate or alleviate pain to the unborn child caused by the particular method of abortion to be performed or induced. The administration of anesthesia or analgesics shall be performed in a manner consistent with standard medical practice in the community.
- 5. No physician shall perform or induce an abortion unless and until the physician has obtained from the woman her voluntary and informed consent given freely and without coercion. If the physician has reason to believe that the woman is being coerced into having an abortion, the physician or qualified professional shall inform the woman that services are available for her

and shall provide her with private access to a telephone and information about such services, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) Rape crisis centers, as defined in section 455.003;
- (2) Shelters for victims of domestic violence, as defined in section 455.200; and
- (3) Orders of protection, pursuant to chapter 455.
- 6. No physician shall perform or induce an abortion unless and until the physician has received and signed a copy of the form prescribed in subsection 3 of this section. The physician shall retain a copy of the form in the patient's medical record.
- 7. In the event of a medical emergency as provided by section 188.039, the physician who performed or induced the abortion shall clearly certify in writing the nature and circumstances of the medical emergency. This certification shall be signed by the physician who performed or induced the abortion, and shall be maintained under section 188.060.
- 8. No person or entity shall require, obtain, or accept payment for an abortion from or on behalf of a patient until at least seventy-two hours have passed since the time that the information required by subsection 1 of this section has been provided to the patient. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit a person or entity from notifying the patient that payment for the abortion will be required after the seventy-two-hour period has expired if she voluntarily chooses to have the abortion.
- 9. The term "qualified professional" as used in this section shall refer to a physician, physician assistant, registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, or licensed social worker, licensed or registered under chapter 334, 335, or 337, acting under the supervision of the physician performing or inducing the abortion, and acting within the course and scope of his or her authority provided by law. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to in any way expand the authority otherwise provided by law relating to the licensure, registration, or scope of practice of any such qualified professional.
- 10. By November 30, 2010, the department shall produce the written materials and forms described in this section. Any written materials produced shall be printed in a typeface large enough to be clearly legible. All information shall be presented in an objective, unbiased manner designed to convey only accurate scientific and medical information. The department shall furnish the written materials and forms at no cost and in sufficient quantity to any person who performs or induces abortions, or to any hospital or facility that provides abortions. The department shall make all information required by subsection 1 of this section available to the public through its department website. The department shall maintain a toll-free, twenty-four-hour hotline telephone number where a caller can obtain information on a regional basis concerning the agencies and services described in subsection 1 of this section. No identifying information regarding persons who use the website shall be collected or maintained.

The department shall monitor the website on a regular basis to prevent tampering and correct any operational deficiencies.

- 11. In order to preserve the compelling interest of the state to ensure that the choice to consent to an abortion is voluntary and informed, and given freely and without coercion, the department shall use the procedures for adoption of emergency rules under section 536.025 in order to promulgate all necessary rules, forms, and other necessary material to implement this section by November 30, 2010.
- 12. If the provisions in subsections 1 and 8 of this section requiring a seventy-two-hour waiting period for an abortion are ever temporarily or permanently restrained or enjoined by judicial order, then the waiting period for an abortion shall be twenty-four hours; provided, however, that if such temporary or permanent restraining order or injunction is stayed or dissolved, or otherwise ceases to have effect, the waiting period for an abortion shall be seventy-two hours.
- 13. The department of health and senior services shall create a video that contains all the information required to be provided to a woman considering an abortion under subsection 1 of this section, except paragraph (a), the physician's telephone number under paragraph (d), and paragraph (e) of subdivision (1) of subsection 1 of this section.
- 188.036. 1. No physician shall perform an abortion on a woman if the physician knows that the woman conceived the unborn child for the purpose of providing fetal organs or tissue for medical transplantation to herself or another, and the physician knows that the woman intends to procure the abortion to utilize those organs or tissue for such use for herself or another.
- 2. No person shall utilize the fetal organs or tissue resulting from an abortion for medical transplantation, if the person knows that the abortion was procured for the purpose of utilizing those organs or tissue for such use.
- 3. No person shall offer any inducement, monetary or otherwise, to a woman or a prospective father of an unborn child for the purpose of conceiving an unborn child for the medical, scientific, experimental or therapeutic use of the fetal organs or tissue.
- 4. No person shall offer any inducement, monetary or otherwise, to the mother or father of an unborn child for the purpose of procuring an abortion for the medical, scientific, experimental or therapeutic use of the fetal organs or tissue.
- 5. No person shall knowingly donate or make an anatomical gift of the fetal organs or tissue resulting from an abortion to any person or entity for medical, scientific, experimental, therapeutic, or any other use.
- **6.** No person shall knowingly offer or receive any valuable consideration for the fetal organs or tissue resulting from an abortion, provided that nothing in this subsection shall prohibit payment for burial or other final disposition of the fetal remains **so long as the final disposition**

does not include any donation or anatomical gift of fetal organs or tissue, or payment for a pathological examination, autopsy or postmortem examination of the fetal remains.

- [6-] 7. If any provision in this section or the application thereof to any person, circumstance or period of gestation is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the provisions or applications which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this section are declared severable.
- 8. Any person who violates the provisions of subsection 3, 4, 5, or 6 of this section shall be guilty of a class C felony, and the court may impose a fine in an amount not less than twice the amount of any valuable consideration received.
- 9. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the utilization of fetal organs or tissue resulting from an abortion for medical or scientific purposes to determine the cause or causes of any anomaly, illness, death, or genetic condition of the fetus, the paternity of the fetus, or for law enforcement purposes.

188.047. [A representative sample of] 1. All tissue and remains of a human fetus, as defined in section 194.375, removed at the time of abortion shall be ensured as nonhazardous in compliance with department of natural resources regulations and submitted to a board eligible or certified pathologist, who shall file a copy of the tissue report with the state department of health and senior services, and who shall provide a copy of the report to the abortion facility or hospital in which the abortion was performed or induced and the pathologist's report shall be made a part of the patient's permanent record.

- 2. The tissue report shall include:
- (1) The pathologist's estimation, to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, of the gestational age of the fetal remains;
- (2) Whether all tissue and remains of a human fetus were received that would be common for a specimen of such estimated gestational age;
- (3) If the pathologist finds that all tissue and remains of a human fetus were not received, what portion of the tissue and remains of a human fetus were not received;
- 15 (4) A gross diagnosis and detailed gross findings of what was received including the 16 percent blood clot and the percent tissue;
 - (5) The date the tissue and remains of a human fetus were remitted to be disposed and the location of such disposal;
 - (6) A certification that all submitted tissue and remains of a human fetus have been disposed in accordance with state laws and regulations; and
 - (7) The name of the entity and physical address of the entity conducting the examination of the specimen containing the remains of a human fetus.

- 3. Each specimen containing remains of a human fetus shall be given a unique identification number to allow the specimen to be tracked from the abortion facility or hospital where the abortion was performed or induced to the pathology lab and to its final disposition location. The unique identification number shall be conspicuously adhered to the exterior of the specimen container.
- 4. A report shall be created and submitted to the department for each specimen containing remains of a human fetus at each facility that handles the specimen, including the abortion facility or hospital where the abortion was performed or induced, the pathology lab, and the location of final disposition. Each report shall document, if applicable, the date the specimen containing remains of a human fetus was collected, transported, received, and disposed. The report by the location of final disposition shall verify that all fetal tissue was received and has been properly disposed according to state laws and regulations.
- 5. The department shall reconcile each notice of abortion with its corresponding pathology report. If the department does not receive the notice of abortion and the pathology report, the department shall conduct an investigation. If the department finds that the abortion facility or hospital where the abortion was performed or induced was not in compliance with the provisions of this section, the department shall consider such noncompliance a deficiency requiring an unscheduled inspection of the facility to ensure the deficiency is remedied. If such deficiency is not remedied, the department shall suspend the abortion facility's or hospital's license for no less than one year.
- 6. Beginning January 1, 2018, the department shall make an annual report to the general assembly. The report shall include, but not be limited to, all reports and information received by the department under the provisions of this section, the number of any deficiencies of each abortion facility in the calendar year and whether such deficiencies were remedied, and the following for each abortion procedure reported to the department the previous calendar year:
 - (1) The location of the abortion facility;
 - (2) The age of the fetus aborted;
 - (3) The termination procedure used with a clinical estimation of gestation;
- (4) Whether the department received the tissue report for that abortion, along with a certification of the disposal of the remains; and
- (5) The existence and nature, if any, of any inconsistencies or concerns between the abortion report submitted under section 188.052 and the tissue report submitted under subsection 1 of this section.

The report shall not contain any personal patient information the disclosure of which is prohibited by state or federal law.

- 7. The mother of the aborted fetus shall be given the option to have the fetus returned to her for final disposition after the fetus has been released from the pathology lab.
 - 188.052. 1. An individual abortion report for each abortion performed or induced upon a woman shall be completed by her attending physician. **The report shall include:**
 - (1) The attending physician's estimation, to a reasonable degree of scientific certainty, of the gestational age of the fetal remains;
 - (2) Whether all tissue and remains of a human fetus, as defined in section 194.375, were removed that would be common for a specimen of such estimated gestational age; and
 - (3) If the attending physician finds that all tissue and remains of a human fetus were not removed, what portion of the tissue and remains of a human fetus were not removed.
 - 2. An individual complication report for any post-abortion care performed upon a woman shall be completed by the physician providing such post-abortion care. This report shall include:
 - (1) The date of the abortion;

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- 13 (2) The name and address of the abortion facility or hospital where the abortion was performed;
 - (3) The nature of the abortion complication diagnosed or treated.
 - 3. All abortion reports shall be signed by the attending physician, and submitted to the state department of health and senior services within forty-five days from the date of the abortion. All complication reports shall be signed by the physician providing the post-abortion care and submitted to the department of health and senior services within forty-five days from the date of the post-abortion care.
 - 4. A copy of the abortion report shall be made a part of the medical record of the patient of the facility or hospital in which the abortion was performed.
- 5. The state department of health and senior services shall be responsible for collecting all abortion reports and complication reports and collating and evaluating all data gathered therefrom and shall annually publish a statistical report based on such data from abortions performed in the previous calendar year.
 - 188.160. 1. Each hospital, ambulatory surgical center, pathology lab, medical research entity, and disposal facility involved in handling fetal remains from an elective abortion shall establish and implement a written policy adopted by each hospital, ambulatory surgical center, pathology lab, medical research entity, and disposal facility relating to the protections for employees who disclose information under subsection 2 of

this section. This policy shall include a time frame for completion of investigations related to complaints, not to exceed thirty days, and a method for notifying the complainant of the disposition of the investigation. This policy shall be submitted to the department to verify implementation. At a minimum, such policy shall include the following provisions:

- (1) No supervisor or individual with authority to hire or fire in a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, pathology lab, medical research entity, or disposal facility shall prohibit employees from disclosing information under subsection 2 of this section;
- (2) No supervisor or individual with authority to hire or fire in a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, pathology lab, medical research entity, or disposal facility shall use or threaten to use his or her supervisory authority to knowingly discriminate against, dismiss, penalize, or in any way retaliate against or harass an employee because the employee in good faith reported or disclosed any information under subsection 2 of this section, or in any way attempt to dissuade, prevent, or interfere with an employee who wishes to report or disclose such information; and
- (3) Establish a program to identify a compliance officer who is a designated person responsible for administering the reporting and investigation process and an alternate person should the primary designee be implicated in the report.
- 2. The provisions of this section shall apply to information disclosed or reported in good faith by an employee concerning alleged violations of applicable federal or state laws or administrative rules concerning the handling of fetal remains. All information disclosed, collected, and maintained under this subsection and under the written policy requirements of this section shall be accessible to the department at all times and shall be reviewed by the department at least annually. Complainants shall be notified of the department's access to such information and of the complainant's right to notify the department of any information concerning alleged violations of applicable federal or state laws or administrative rules concerning abortions or the handling of fetal remains.
- 3. Prior to any disclosure to individuals or agencies other than the department, employees wishing to make a disclosure under the provisions of this section shall first report to the individual or individuals designated by the hospital, ambulatory surgical center, pathology lab, medical research entity, or disposal facility under subsection 1 of this section.
- 4. If the compliance officer, compliance committee, or management official discovers credible evidence of misconduct from any source and, after a reasonable inquiry, has reason to believe that the misconduct may violate criminal, civil, or administrative law, the hospital, ambulatory surgical center, pathology lab, medical research entity, or disposal facility shall report the existence of misconduct to the appropriate governmental authority

within a reasonable period, but not more than seven days after determining that there is credible evidence of a violation.

- 5. Reports made to the department shall be subject to the provisions of section 197.477; provided that, the restrictions of section 197.477 shall not be construed to limit the employee's ability to subpoen a from the original source the information reported to the department under this section.
- 6. Each written policy shall allow employees making a report who wish to remain anonymous to do so and shall include safeguards to protect the confidentiality of the employee making the report, the confidentiality of patients, and the integrity of data, information, and medical records.
- 7. Each hospital, ambulatory surgical center, pathology lab, medical research entity, and disposal facility shall, within forty-eight hours of the receipt of a report, notify the employee that his or her report has been received and is being reviewed unless the employee wishes to remain anonymous.
- 8. Beginning December 1, 2017, each hospital, ambulatory surgical center, pathology lab, medical research entity, and disposal facility involved in handling fetal remains from an elective abortion shall post a notice at their place of employment in a sufficient number of places on the premises to assure that such notice will reasonably be seen by all employees. A hospital, ambulatory surgical center, pathology lab, medical research entity, or disposal facility involved in handling fetal remains from an elective abortion for whom services are performed by individuals who may not reasonably be expected to see a posted notice shall notify each such employee in writing of the contents of such notice. The notice shall include all information provided in this section.
- 194.375. 1. Sections 194.375 to 194.390 shall be known and may be cited as the "Disposition of Fetal Remains Act".
 - 2. As used in sections 194.375 to 194.390, the following terms mean:
- 4 (1) "Final disposition", the burial, cremation, or other disposition of the remains of a 5 human fetus following a spontaneous fetal demise occurring after a gestation period of less than 6 twenty completed weeks;
 - (2) "Remains of a human fetus", the [fetal] remains [or fetal products of conception of a mother after a miscarriage, regardless of the gestational age or whether the remains have been obtained by spontaneous or accidental means] of the dead offspring of a human being that has reached a stage of development so that there are cartilaginous structures or fetal or skeletal parts after an abortion or miscarriage, whether the remains have been obtained by induced, spontaneous, or accidental means.

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197.230. **1.** The department of health and senior services shall make, or cause to be made, such inspections and investigations as it deems necessary. The department may delegate its powers and duties to investigate and inspect ambulatory surgical centers to an official of a political subdivision having a population of at least four hundred fifty thousand if such political subdivision is deemed qualified by the department to inspect and investigate ambulatory surgical centers. The official so designated shall submit a written report of his **or her** findings to the department and the department may accept the recommendations of such official if it determines that the facility inspected meets minimum standards established pursuant to sections 197.200 to 197.240.

2. Inspection, investigation, and quality assurance reports shall be made available to the public. Any portion of a report may be redacted when made publicly available if such portion would disclose information that is not subject to disclosure under the law.

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