1	H.508
2	Introduced by Representatives Mrowicki of Putney, Jerman of Essex,
3	Krowinski of Burlington, Bartholomew of Hartland, Burke of
4	Brattleboro, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Cross of Winooski
5	Dakin of Chester, Fay of St. Johnsbury, McCormack of
6	Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham,
7	Pugh of South Burlington, Sharpe of Bristol, Taylor of Barre
8	City, Till of Jericho, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Wizowaty of
9	Burlington, and Young of Glover
10	Referred to Committee on
11	Date:
12	Subject: Health; abortion; right to abortion
13	Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to statutorily
14	recognize the right to have an abortion.
15	An act relating to recognizing the right to have an abortion
16	It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:
17	Sec. 1. FINDINGS
18	The Vermont General Assembly finds:
19	(1) On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe v.
20	Wade, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), established that the U.S. Constitution protects a

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1	woman's right to privacy and limits government interference with medical
2	decisions.
3	(2) The decision in Roe v. Wade ensures that abortion remains a safe and
4	legal procedure for a woman to consider, if and when she needs it.
5	(3) As the State of Vermont pursues major health care reform, it should
6	be a public policy goal to enhance the health of all citizens, including women
7	of all ages, and to strengthen individuals and families by encouraging and
8	promoting access to comprehensive family planning services and to prenatal
9	support services that help ensure that planned pregnancies remain healthy
10	throughout their entire term.
11	(4) The General Assembly's repeal of the dated and restrictive
12	13 V.S.A. chapter 3 would remove the statutory prohibition on abortion
13	procedures in Vermont and serve as an important legislative action in support
14	of a woman's reproductive rights as well as help a health care provider to

- (5) Abortion is a deeply personal and often complex decision for a woman, and therefore decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy, or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family, and her faith, with the counsel of her doctor or health care provider.
- (6) Violence against providers of family planning services and restrictions on access to abortion endanger the lives of women.

perform an abortion procedure without fear of criminal liability.

1	Sec. 2. 18 V.S.A. chapter 56 is added to read:
2	CHAPTER 56. ABORTION
3	§ 2401. RIGHT TO ABORTION FOR WOMEN
4	(a) Notwithstanding 13 V.S.A. chapter 3 or any other provision of law to
5	the contrary:
6	(1) The right of a woman to terminate her pregnancy shall not be
7	restricted.
8	(2) A health care provider performing or assisting with a legal abortion
9	procedure shall not be subject to any civil, criminal, or administrative liability
10	or penalty.
11	(b) Any law, regulation, or ordinance which purports to restrict the right of
12	a woman to terminate her pregnancy in violation of subsection (a) of this
13	section shall be void.
14	(c) As used in this section, "health care provider" shall have the same
15	meaning as in section 9432 of this title.
16	Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE
17	This act shall take effect on passage.