

**First Regular Session
Sixty-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 05-0341.01 Jerry Barry

HOUSE BILL 05-1042

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Boyd

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Veiga

House Committees

Health and Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION TO**
102 **A SURVIVOR OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)

Requires hospitals to adopt protocols to inform a survivor of a sexual assault of the availability of emergency contraception and to offer to dispense the emergency contraception or refer the survivor to a pharmacy that can dispense the emergency contraception. Exempts a health care professional who objects on religious or moral grounds from the requirement to provide information concerning emergency contraception. Specifies that hospital shall not be required to provide emergency contraception to a pregnant woman.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds that:

4 (a) Each year more than three hundred thousand women are
5 sexually assaulted in the United States.

6 (b) A woman who is the survivor of a sexual assault may face the
7 additional trauma of an unwanted pregnancy or the fear that pregnancy
8 may result.

9 (c) Each year, between twenty-five thousand and thirty-two
10 thousand women in the United States become pregnant as a result of a
11 sexual assault, and approximately twenty-two thousand of these
12 pregnancies could be prevented if all women used emergency
13 contraception.

14 (2) The general assembly further finds that:

15 (a) Standards of emergency care established by the American
16 College of Emergency Medicine and the American Medical Association
17 require that sexual assault survivors be counseled about their risk of
18 pregnancy and offered emergency contraception.

19 (b) Emergency contraception is more likely to prevent pregnancy
20 if taken as soon as possible, but emergency contraception prevents
21 pregnancy if taken within one-hundred-twenty hours after unprotected
22 sexual intercourse.

23 (c) A recent survey of Colorado hospitals found that there are
24 inconsistent policies and practices for dispensing emergency
25 contraception and providing education to sexual assault survivors.

26 (d) Because emergency contraception is time sensitive and a

1 sexual assault survivor may have delayed hospital treatment, it is critical
2 that she be informed of this option and, if she wishes, be dispensed
3 emergency contraception at the time of her examination or be provided
4 a timely prescription.

5 (3) The general assembly declares the purpose of this act is to
6 promote the availability of emergency contraception for sexual assault
7 survivors as a compassionate response to their trauma. The general
8 assembly further declares the purpose of this act is to reduce the number
9 of unintended pregnancies and induced abortions that result from sexual
10 assault.

11 **SECTION 2.** Part 1 of article 3 of title 25, Colorado Revised
12 Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to
13 read:

14 **25-3-110. Emergency contraception.** (1) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS
15 SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES, "EMERGENCY
16 CONTRACEPTION" MEANS ANY DRUG OR DEVICE APPROVED BY THE
17 FEDERAL FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION THAT PREVENTS PREGNANCY
18 AFTER SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ORAL
19 CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS.

20 (2) ALL HEALTH CARE FACILITIES THAT ARE LICENSED PURSUANT
21 TO THIS PART 1 AND PROVIDE EMERGENCY CARE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT
22 SURVIVORS SHALL ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO THEIR EVIDENCE COLLECTION
23 PROTOCOLS FOR THE TREATMENT OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR THAT
24 INCLUDE INFORMING THE SURVIVOR IN A TIMELY MANNER OF THE
25 AVAILABILITY OF EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION AS A MEANS OF
26 PREGNANCY PROPHYLAXIS AND EDUCATING THE SURVIVOR ON THE PROPER
27 USE OF EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION AND THE APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP

1 CARE. ALL SUCH HEALTH CARE FACILITIES SHALL OFFER EMERGENCY
2 CONTRACEPTION TO A SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVOR AND EITHER DISPENSE
3 THE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION TO THE SURVIVOR OR REFER THE
4 SURVIVOR TO A NEARBY PHARMACY THAT CAN DISPENSE THE EMERGENCY
5 CONTRACEPTION.

6 (3) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE INTERPRETED TO REQUIRE:

7 (a) A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL WHO IS EMPLOYED BY A
8 HEALTH CARE FACILITY THAT PROVIDES EMERGENCY CARE TO A SEXUAL
9 ASSAULT SURVIVOR TO INFORM THE SURVIVOR OF THE AVAILABILITY OF
10 EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION IF THE PROFESSIONAL REFUSES TO PROVIDE
11 THE INFORMATION ON THE BASIS OF RELIGIOUS OR MORAL BELIEFS; OR

12 (b) A HOSPITAL TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION TO A
13 SURVIVOR OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT WHO IS PREGNANT.

14 (4) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENCOURAGES HEALTH CARE
15 FACILITIES TO PROVIDE TRAINING TO EMERGENCY ROOM STAFF
16 CONCERNING THE EFFICACY OF EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION AND THE
17 TIME-SENSITIVE NATURE OF PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING THE DRUG OR
18 DEVICE.

19 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,
20 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
21 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.