HB 19 2017

1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to liability for termination of 3 pregnancies; creating s. 390.035, F.S.; creating a 4 cause of action for physical injury and emotional 5 distress resulting from a termination of pregnancy 6 under certain circumstances; providing a statute of 7 limitations for the cause of action; authorizing an 8 award of attorney fees and costs to a prevailing 9 plaintiff; defining the term "damages"; providing an 10 effective date. 11 12

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 390.035, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

- 390.035 Liability for termination of pregnancy.-
- (1) A physician who performs an abortion is liable to the woman upon whom the abortion is performed for any damages for physical injuries or emotional distress caused by the physician's negligence or failure to obtain the informed consent required by s. 390.0111.
- (2) The signing of a consent form by the woman before the abortion does not negate the cause of action but may reduce the recovery of damages to the extent that the content of the consent form informed the woman of the risk of the type of

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injuries for which the woman is seeking damages.

- (3) An action brought under this section is not a claim for medical malpractice and chapter 766 does not apply. However, this section may not be construed as barring any other statutory or common law cause of action for medical malpractice resulting from an abortion procedure otherwise available or diminish the nature or the extent of those causes of action. The cause of action expressly specified in this section is in addition to any other statutory or common law cause of action.
- (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an action for damages brought under this section shall be commenced within 4 years after the time the incident giving rise to the action occurred or within 4 years after the time the incident is discovered or should have been discovered with the exercise of due diligence; however, except in the case of a minor, in no event shall the action be commenced later than 10 years after the time the incident giving rise to the action occurred. If a woman is a minor when an abortion is performed, an action under this section may be commenced within 10 years after the date the minor attains 18 years of age.
- (5) A prevailing plaintiff in an action brought under this section is entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs.
- (6) For the purposes of this section, the term "damages" means all special and general damages that are recoverable in an intentional tort, negligence, survival, or wrongful death

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51	action,	inclu	ıding,	but	not	limit	ed to	o, actua	al and	pι	<u>initive</u>
52	damages	<u>.</u>									
53	Sed	ction	2. T	his	act	shall	take	effect	July 3	1,	2017.

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