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1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to protection of the right to an 3 abortion; creating s. 797.04, F.S.; finding and 4 declaring that a woman has a protected right to an 5 abortion; creating a rebuttable presumption concerning 6 viability of a fetus; providing for civil liability 7 for certain persons who violate such a right; 8 providing for punitive damages; providing for 9 compensatory damages, costs, and attorney fees; providing for state payment of awards against indigent 10 defendants; providing for liens against such indigent 11 defendants; providing for employer liability; amending 12 13 s. 95.11, F.S.; providing a statute of limitations period for actions for the deprivation of the right to 14 15 an abortion; providing an effective date. 16 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: 18 19 Section 797.04, Florida Statutes, is created to Section 1. 20 read: 21 797.04 Right to an abortion.-22 The Legislature finds and declares that s. 23, Art. I 23 of the State Constitution concerning right of privacy protects a 24 woman's right to abortion as the Florida Supreme Court held in 25 In re T.W., 551 So.2d 1186 (1989).

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(2) A woman has the right to terminate a pregnancy until that point in time when the fetus becomes capable of meaningful life outside the womb through standard medical measures. There is a rebuttable presumption that this point occurs at the end of the second trimester.

- (3) A person or entity that takes any action under color of law that violates a woman's right under subsection (2) is liable as provided in this section.
- (4) A woman whose rights under subsection (3) are violated shall have a cause of action for compensatory damages as well as \$10,000 in punitive damages from each violator. A successful plaintiff under this section is also entitled to an award of reasonable attorney fees and costs.
- (5) If a defendant is indigent and unable to pay all or part of an award under subsection (4), the state shall, notwithstanding chapter 768, be liable for the entire unpaid amount of the award and shall pay such amount of the award that is not paid by the defendant. The state shall have a lien against the income and property of such defendant for the amount paid by the state under this subsection.
- (6) An employer is liable for the acts of an employee acting within the scope of his or her employment that violate this section.
- Section 2. Subsection (13) is added to section 95.11, Florida Statutes, to read:

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95.11	Limita	tions	other	tha	an for	the	re	ecovei	ry of rea	11
property	Actions	other	than	for	recove	ery	of	real	property	shall
be commend	ed as fo	llows:	:							

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- (13) WITHIN TWENTY-ONE YEARS.—Any action under s. 797.04 for deprivation of the right to an abortion.
 - Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

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