HB 19

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:					
13						
14	Section 1. Section 390.035, Florida Statutes, is created					
15	to read:					
16	390.035 Liability for termination of pregnancy					
17	(1) A physician who performs an abortion is liable to the					
18	woman upon whom the abortion is performed for any damages for					
19	physical injuries or emotional distress caused by the					
20	physician's negligence or failure to obtain the informed consent					
21	required by s. 390.0111.					
22	(2) The signing of a consent form by the woman before the					
23	abortion does not negate the cause of action but may reduce the					
24	recovery of damages to the extent that the content of the					
25	consent form informed the woman of the risk of the type of					

## Page 1 of 3

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

2017

HB 19

2017

26 injuries for which the woman is seeking damages. 27 An action brought under this section is not a claim (3) 28 for medical malpractice and chapter 766 does not apply. However, 29 this section may not be construed as barring any other statutory or common law cause of action for medical malpractice resulting 30 31 from an abortion procedure otherwise available or diminish the 32 nature or the extent of those causes of action. The cause of 33 action expressly specified in this section is in addition to any 34 other statutory or common law cause of action. 35 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an action 36 for damages brought under this section shall be commenced within 37 4 years after the time the incident giving rise to the action 38 occurred or within 4 years after the time the incident is 39 discovered or should have been discovered with the exercise of due diligence; however, except in the case of a minor, in no 40 41 event shall the action be commenced later than 10 years after 42 the time the incident giving rise to the action occurred. If a 43 woman is a minor when an abortion is performed, an action under 44 this section may be commenced within 10 years after the date the 45 minor attains 18 years of age. 46 (5) A prevailing plaintiff in an action brought under this 47 section is entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs. 48 (6) For the purposes of this section, the term "damages" 49 means all special and general damages that are recoverable in an intentional tort, negligence, survival, or wrongful death 50

Page 2 of 3

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

FLORIDA	HOUSE	OF REP	RESENTA	TIVES
---------	-------	--------	---------	-------

HB 19

## 51 <u>action, including, but not limited to, actual and punitive</u> 52 <u>damages.</u>

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.

Page 3 of 3

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.