



## Legislation Summary:

### An Act negating archaic statutes targeting young women

Initial bill number: [S784](#) (Bill numbers will change as legislation proceeds.)

Sponsors: Sen. Harriette Chandler

This bill addresses abortion rights by liberalizing those rights in several discrete areas. In particular, the bill strikes out provisions that currently require that an abortion performed during or after the 13th week of pregnancy must be done in a hospital duly authorized to provide facilities for general surgery. In addition, it strikes out four sections of chapter 272 (Crimes Against Chastity, Morality, Decency And Good Order) dealing with procuring miscarriage, advertising relative to miscarriage or prevention of pregnancy, and the prevention of conception or abortion. Finally, it eliminates the restriction that physicians may only furnish drugs, articles or information for prevention of pregnancy or conception to married couples.

Here is a description of what would be changed by each section of the bill:

Section 1: Eliminates the requirement that an abortion, after the 13<sup>th</sup> week, must be performed in a hospital with the facilities for general or obstetrical surgery.

Section 2: Repeals the law providing a 5-20 year prison term for anyone performing an abortion if the woman dies and a prison term of up to 7 years if she does not die, plus a \$2000 fine.

Section 3: Repeals the law prohibiting any advertising or information about obtaining an abortion or prevention of pregnancy.

Section 4: Repeals the law outlawing and establishing a prison term for selling, lending, giving away or exhibiting any drug, medicine, instrument or article for prevention of conception or for causing an abortion; or for publishing any type of information on where such items can be purchased; or for manufacturing those items.

Section 5: Removes the word “married” from the description of who can legally obtain contraceptives.

**League position:** From Where We Stand, p. 52: Reproductive Choices: Goal: Freedom of individuals to make informed reproductive decisions based on their own convictions and beliefs. (1972)

The League supports: • emphasis on preventive measures to avoid unwanted pregnancies • access to family planning information, services and devices to people who want them • wide distribution of information about contraception and sterilization • public funding for birth control and abortion services for the poor • research on birth control methods

The League opposes restrictive birth control and abortion laws.