

1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 324

May 6, 1999 – Introduced by Representatives WALKER, STASKUNAS, GUNDRUM, RHOADES, HUEBSCH, RYBA, KESTELL, URBAN, OWENS, ZIEGELBAUER, HANDRICK, KREIBICH, JESKEWITZ, HUTCHISON, F. LASEE, MEYERHOFER, LADWIG, FREESE, MUSSER, KEDZIE, SYKORA, ALBERS, PLALE, GROTHMAN, GOETSCH, WIECKERT, SERATTI, GUNDERSON, NASS, MONTGOMERY, SPILLNER, PETTIS, LEIBHAM, STONE, DUFF, WAUKAU and GARD, cosponsored by Senators BRESKE, ROESSLER, FARROW, DRZEWIECKI, FITZGERALD, SCHULTZ, WELCH, COWLES, LAZICH and ZIEN. Referred to Committee on Labor and Employment.

1 **AN ACT to renumber and amend** 111.337 (1), 253.09 (1), 441.06 (6) and 448.03
2 (5) (a); **to amend** 253.09 (title), 253.09 (2), 253.09 (3), 253.09 (4) (a), 253.09 (4)
3 (b) 1., 253.09 (4) (b) 2., 441.06 (title) and 448.03 (5) (title); and **to create** 111.337
4 (1g), 111.337 (1r) (b), 253.09 (1g), 253.09 (1r) (a) 1. to 7., 441.06 (6) (a), 441.06
5 (6) (b) 1. to 7., 441.06 (7), 448.03 (5) (ag), 448.03 (5) (am), 448.03 (5) (ar) 1. to 7.
6 and 450.135 of the statutes; **relating to:** employment discrimination based on
7 creed and exemption from liability and discipline for physicians, nurses,
8 pharmacists, other health care providers and hospital employes who refuse to
9 participate in sterilization, abortion, assisted suicide and other procedures on
10 moral or religious grounds.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with certain exceptions, an employer may not engage in employment discrimination based on creed. “Creed” is defined as a system of religious beliefs, including moral or ethical beliefs about right and wrong, that a person sincerely holds with the strength of traditional religious views. Employment discrimination based on creed is defined to include refusing to reasonably

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accommodate an employee's or prospective employee's religious observances or practices unless the employer can demonstrate that the accommodation would pose an undue hardship.

This bill expands the definition of employment discrimination based on creed to include discriminating against a health care provider on the basis of his or her refusal, based on creed, to participate in any of the following activities: 1) sterilization procedures; 2) certain procedures that prevent the implantation of a fertilized human ovum; 3) abortions; 4) experiments or medical procedures that involve the destruction of a human embryo or that involve a human embryo or unborn child but do not relate to the beneficial treatment of the human embryo or unborn child; 5) procedures using fetal tissue or organs other than fetal tissue or organs from a stillbirth, spontaneous abortion or miscarriage; 6) withholding or withdrawing nutrition or hydration under certain circumstances; or 7) acts causing or assisting in the death of an individual, including assisted suicide, euthanasia or mercy killing. There is no exception for an employer to show that the refusal poses an undue hardship.

Under current law, hospitals, certain health care professionals and hospital employees may not, under certain circumstances, be required to participate in procedures involving sterilization or the removal of a human embryo or fetus. Specifically, a hospital may not be required to admit a patient or allow the use of its facilities for such a procedure. In addition, physicians and other hospital employees who object, in writing, to participating in such a procedure on moral or religious grounds may not be disciplined for refusing to participate in the procedure. Also, a hospital, school or employer may not take any disciplinary action regarding employment, staff or student status against a person who refuses to participate in such a procedure if the refusal is based on moral or religious precepts. Finally, under current law, a hospital and the following persons are exempt from liability for damages that result from a refusal to perform such a procedure if the refusal is based on religious or moral precepts: persons employed by or associated with the staff of a hospital, physicians and other health care professionals licensed or certified by the medical examining board in the department of regulation and licensing (DORL) and registered nurses licensed by the board of nursing in DORL.

This bill expands all of the provisions described above regarding hospitals, health care professionals and hospital employees to include a refusal to participate, based on moral or religious grounds, in any of the seven activities described above with respect to employment discrimination based on creed. Also, the bill provides that pharmacists licensed by the pharmacy examining board in DORL are exempt from liability for damages that result from a refusal to participate in any of the seven activities if the refusal is based on religious or moral precepts. In addition, the bill changes the exemptions from liability under current law for physicians and other health care professionals licensed or certified by the medical examining board and registered nurses licensed by the board of nursing so that they are consistent with the exemption under the bill for pharmacists.

Finally, the bill specifies that the medical examining board, board of nursing, pharmacy examining board or DORL may not take any disciplinary action against

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any of the following who, in writing, refuse, or state an intention to refuse, to participate in any of the seven activities if the refusal is based on moral or religious grounds: a physician or other health care professional licensed or certified by the medical examining board, registered nurse licensed by the board of nursing or pharmacist licensed by the pharmacy examining board. Under the bill, the medical examining board may not take disciplinary action against a physician who makes such a refusal even if the physician refuses to transfer a patient who has executed a declaration authorizing the withholding or withdrawal of life-sustaining procedures or feeding tubes, or who has executed a power of attorney for health care instrument consenting to the withholding or withdrawal of feeding tubes, to another physician who will comply with the declaration or instrument. Under current law, under certain circumstances, a physician who refuses to transfer such a patient to another physician is subject to discipline for unprofessional conduct.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 111.337 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 111.337 (1r) (intro.) and
2 amended to read:

3 111.337 (1r) (intro.) Employment discrimination because of creed includes, but
4 is not limited to, ~~refusing~~ any of the following:

5 (a) Refusing to reasonably accommodate an employe's or prospective employe's
6 religious observance or practice unless the employer can demonstrate that the
7 accommodation would pose an undue hardship on the employer's program,
8 enterprise or business.

9 **SECTION 2.** 111.337 (1g) of the statutes is created to read:

10 111.337 (1g) In this section:

11 (a) "Health care provider" means any of the following:

12 1. An individual licensed, registered, permitted or certified by the department
13 of health and family services or the department of regulation and licensing to provide
14 health care services in this state.

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1 2. An individual who provides health care services as directed, supervised or
2 inspected by an individual specified in subd. 1.

3 (b) “Human embryo” includes any organism that is derived by fertilization,
4 parthenogenesis, cloning, or any other means from one or more human gametes or
5 human diploid cells.

6 (c) “Participate in” means to perform, assist in, recommend, counsel in favor
7 of, make referrals for, prescribe, dispense or administer drugs for, or otherwise
8 promote, encourage or aid.

9 **SECTION 3.** 111.337 (1r) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

10 111.337 **(1r)** (b) Discriminating against any health care provider by engaging
11 in any of the actions prohibited under s. 111.322 on the basis of the health care
12 provider’s refusal, or statement of an intention to refuse, whether or not in writing,
13 based on his or her creed, to participate in any of the following:

14 1. A sterilization procedure.

15 2. A procedure involving a drug or device that may prevent the implantation
16 of a fertilized human ovum.

17 3. An abortion, as defined in s. 253.10 (2) (a).

18 4. An experiment or medical procedure involving any of the following:

19 a. The destruction of a human embryo.

20 b. A human embryo or unborn child, at any stage of development, in which the
21 experiment or procedure is not related to the beneficial treatment of the human
22 embryo or unborn child.

23 5. A procedure, including a transplant procedure, that uses fetal tissue or
24 organs other than fetal tissue or organs from a stillbirth, spontaneous abortion or
25 miscarriage.

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1 6. The withholding or withdrawal of nutrition or hydration, unless the
2 administration of nutrition or hydration is medically contraindicated.

3 7. An act that causes or assists in causing the death of an individual, such as
4 by assisted suicide, euthanasia or mercy killing.

5 **SECTION 4.** 253.09 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 **253.09** (title) ~~Abortion refused~~ **Refusal to participate in certain**
7 **practices; no liability; no discrimination.**

8 **SECTION 5.** 253.09 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 253.09 (1r) (a) (intro.) and
9 amended to read:

10 253.09 (1r) (a) (intro.) No hospital shall be is required to admit any patient or
11 to allow the use of the hospital facilities for the purpose of performing a sterilization
12 procedure or removing a human embryo or fetus. any of the following:

13 (b) A physician or any other person who is a member of or associated with the
14 staff of a hospital, or any employe of a hospital in which such a procedure the
15 performance of an activity specified in par. (a) 1. to 7. has been authorized, who shall
16 state in writing his or her objection to the performance of or providing assistance to
17 such a procedure, in writing, refuses, or states an intention to refuse, to participate
18 in the activity on moral or religious grounds shall not be required to participate in
19 such medical procedure, and the activity.

20 (c) A physician or any other person who is a member of or associated with the
21 staff of a hospital, or any employe of a hospital, is immune from liability for any
22 damage caused by, and may not be subjected to any disciplinary or recriminatory
23 action based on, the refusal of any such the person to participate therein shall not
24 form the basis of any claim for damages on account of such refusal or for any

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1 ~~disciplinary or recriminatory action against such person in an activity specified in~~
2 ~~par. (a) 1. to 7. on moral or religious grounds.~~

3 **SECTION 6.** 253.09 (1g) of the statutes is created to read:

4 253.09 (1g) In this section:

5 (a) “Human embryo” includes any organism that is derived by fertilization,
6 parthenogenesis, cloning, or any other means from one or more human gametes or
7 human diploid cells.

8 (b) “Participate in” means to perform, assist in, recommend, counsel in favor
9 of, make referrals for, prescribe, dispense or administer drugs for, or otherwise
10 promote, encourage or aid.

11 **SECTION 7.** 253.09 (1r) (a) 1. to 7. of the statutes are created to read:

12 253.09 (1r) (a) 1. A sterilization procedure.

13 2. A procedure involving a drug or device that may prevent the implantation
14 of a fertilized human ovum.

15 3. An abortion, as defined in s. 253.10 (2) (a).

16 4. An experiment or medical procedure involving any of the following:

17 a. The destruction of a human embryo.

18 b. A human embryo or unborn child, at any stage of development, in which the
19 experiment or procedure is not related to the beneficial treatment of the human
20 embryo or unborn child.

21 5. A procedure, including a transplant procedure, that uses fetal tissue or
22 organs other than fetal tissue or organs from a stillbirth, spontaneous abortion or
23 miscarriage.

24 6. The withholding or withdrawal of nutrition or hydration, unless the
25 administration of nutrition or hydration is medically contraindicated.

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1 7. An act that causes or assists in causing the death of an individual, such as
2 by assisted suicide, euthanasia or mercy killing.

3 **SECTION 8.** 253.09 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 253.09 (2) ~~No A hospital or employe of any a hospital shall be liable for any civil~~
5 ~~damages resulting from~~ is immune from liability for any damage caused by a refusal
6 to perform sterilization procedures or remove a human embryo or fetus from a
7 person, if such participate in an activity specified in sub. (1r) (a) 1. to 7., if the refusal
8 is based on religious or moral precepts.

9 **SECTION 9.** 253.09 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 253.09 (3) ~~No hospital, school or employer may discriminate against any~~
11 ~~person with regard to admission, hiring or firing, tenure, term, condition or privilege~~
12 ~~of employment, student status or staff status on the ground that the person refuses~~
13 ~~to recommend, aid or perform procedures for sterilization or the removal of a human~~
14 ~~embryo or fetus, or states an intention to refuse, whether or not in writing, to~~
15 participate in an activity specified in sub. (1r) (a) 1. to 7., if the refusal is based on
16 religious or moral precepts.

17 **SECTION 10.** 253.09 (4) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

18 253.09 (4) (a) ~~Such individual to perform or assist in the performance of any~~
19 ~~sterilization procedure or removal of a human embryo or fetus~~ participate in an
20 activity specified in sub. (1r) (a) 1. to 7., if the individual's performance or assistance
21 participation in the performance of such a procedure would be activity is contrary to
22 the individual's religious beliefs or moral convictions; or

23 **SECTION 11.** 253.09 (4) (b) 1. of the statutes is amended to read:

24 253.09 (4) (b) 1. ~~Make its facilities available for the performance of any~~
25 ~~sterilization procedure or removal of a human embryo or fetus~~ an individual to

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1 ~~participate in an activity specified in sub. (1r) (a) 1. to 7., if the performance of such~~
2 ~~a procedure in such facilities is prohibited by the entity prohibits the activity from~~
3 ~~taking place in the facilities~~ on the basis of religious beliefs or moral convictions; or

4 **SECTION 12.** 253.09 (4) (b) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

5 253.09 (4) (b) 2. Provide any personnel for the performance or assistance in the
6 performance of any sterilization procedure or assistance to participate in an activity
7 specified in sub. (1r) (a) 1. to 7., if the performance or assistance in the performance
8 of such procedure or the removal of a human embryo or fetus by such personnel would
9 be activity is contrary to the religious beliefs or moral convictions of such the
10 personnel.

11 **SECTION 13.** 441.06 (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 **441.06 (title) Licensure; civil liability and disciplinary exemption.**

13 **SECTION 14.** 441.06 (6) of the statutes is renumbered 441.06 (6) (b) (intro.) and
14 amended to read:

15 441.06 (6) (b) (intro.) No A person licensed as a registered nurse under this
16 section is liable for any civil damages resulting from immune from liability for any
17 damage caused by his or her refusal to perform sterilization procedures or to remove
18 or aid in the removal of a human embryo or fetus from a person, assist in, recommend,
19 counsel in favor of, make referrals for, prescribe, dispense or administer drugs for,
20 or otherwise promote, encourage or aid any of the following, if the refusal is based
21 on religious or moral precepts.;

22 **SECTION 15.** 441.06 (6) (a) of the statutes is created to read:

23 441.06 (6) (a) In this subsection, “human embryo” includes any organism that
24 is derived by fertilization, parthenogenesis, cloning, or any other means from one or
25 more human gametes or human diploid cells.

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1 **SECTION 16.** 441.06 (6) (b) 1. to 7. of the statutes are created to read:

2 441.06 **(6)** (b) 1. A sterilization procedure.

3 2. A procedure involving a drug or device that may prevent the implantation
4 of a fertilized human ovum.

5 3. An abortion, as defined in s. 253.10 (2) (a).

6 4. An experiment or medical procedure involving any of the following:

7 a. The destruction of a human embryo.

8 b. A human embryo or unborn child, at any stage of development, in which the
9 experiment or procedure is not related to the beneficial treatment of the human
10 embryo or unborn child.

11 5. A procedure, including a transplant procedure, that uses fetal tissue or
12 organs other than fetal tissue or organs from a stillbirth, spontaneous abortion or
13 miscarriage.

14 6. The withholding or withdrawal of nutrition or hydration, unless the
15 administration of nutrition or hydration is medically contraindicated.

16 7. An act that causes or assists in causing the death of an individual, such as
17 by assisted suicide, euthanasia or mercy killing.

18 **SECTION 17.** 441.06 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

19 441.06 **(7)** A person licensed as a registered nurse under this section who, in
20 writing, refuses, or states an intention to refuse, on moral or religious grounds to
21 engage in a practice of professional nursing that is related to an activity specified in
22 sub. (6) (b) 1. to 7. shall not be required to engage in the practice with respect to the
23 activity and may not be disciplined by the board or the department for refusing or
24 stating an intention to refuse to engage in the practice with respect to the activity.

25 **SECTION 18.** 448.03 (5) (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1 448.03 (5) (title) CIVIL LIABILITY AND DISCIPLINARY EXEMPTION; CERTAIN MEDICAL
2 PROCEDURES AND REPORTS.

3 **SECTION 19.** 448.03 (5) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 448.03 (5) (ar) (intro.)
4 and amended to read:

5 448.03 (5) (ar) (intro.) ~~No~~ A person licensed or certified under this subchapter
6 ~~shall be liable for any civil damages resulting from such~~ is immune from liability for
7 any damage caused by the person's refusal to perform sterilization procedures or to
8 remove or aid in the removal of a human embryo or fetus from a person if such, assist
9 in, recommend, counsel in favor of, make referrals for, prescribe, dispense or
10 administer drugs for, or otherwise promote, encourage or aid any of the following if
11 the refusal is based on religious or moral precepts.:

12 **SECTION 20.** 448.03 (5) (ag) of the statutes is created to read:

13 448.03 (5) (ag) In this subsection, "human embryo" includes any organism that
14 is derived by fertilization, parthenogenesis, cloning, or any other means from one or
15 more human gametes or human diploid cells.

16 **SECTION 21.** 448.03 (5) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

17 448.03 (5) (am) A person licensed or certified under this subchapter who, in
18 writing, refuses, or states an intention to refuse, on moral or religious grounds to
19 engage in a practice within the scope of his or her license or certification that is
20 related to an activity specified in par. (ar) 1. to 7. shall not be required to engage in
21 the practice with respect to the activity and, notwithstanding s. 154.07 (1) (a) 3. or
22 155.50 (1) (b), may not be disciplined by the board or the department for refusing or
23 stating an intention to refuse to engage in the practice with respect to the activity.

24 **SECTION 22.** 448.03 (5) (ar) 1. to 7. of the statutes are created to read:

25 448.03 (5) (ar) 1. A sterilization procedure.

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1 2. A procedure involving a drug or device that may prevent the implantation
2 of a fertilized human ovum.

3 3. An abortion, as defined in s. 253.10 (2) (a).

4 4. An experiment or medical procedure involving any of the following:

5 a. The destruction of a human embryo.

6 b. A human embryo or unborn child, at any stage of development, in which the
7 experiment or procedure is not related to the beneficial treatment of the human
8 embryo or unborn child.

9 5. A procedure, including a transplant procedure, that uses fetal tissue or
10 organs other than fetal tissue or organs from a stillbirth, spontaneous abortion or
11 miscarriage.

12 6. The withholding or withdrawal of nutrition or hydration, unless the
13 administration of nutrition or hydration is medically contraindicated.

14 7. An act that causes or assists in causing the death of an individual, such as
15 by assisted suicide, euthanasia or mercy killing.

16 **SECTION 23.** 450.135 of the statutes is created to read:

17 **450.135 Pharmacist's refusal to be involved in certain activities. (1)**

18 In this section, "human embryo" includes any organism that is derived by
19 fertilization, parthenogenesis, cloning, or any other means from one or more human
20 gametes or human diploid cells.

21 **(2)** A person licensed as a pharmacist under this chapter is immune from
22 liability for any damage caused by his or her refusal to be involved in the performance
23 of, assistance in, recommendation of, counseling in favor of, making referrals for,
24 prescribing, dispensing or administering drugs for, or otherwise promoting,

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1 encouraging or aiding any of the following, if the refusal is based on religious or moral
2 precepts:

3 (a) A sterilization procedure.

4 (b) A procedure involving a drug or device that may prevent the implantation
5 of a fertilized human ovum.

6 (c) An abortion, as defined in s. 253.10 (2) (a).

7 (d) An experiment or medical procedure involving any of the following:

8 1. The destruction of a human embryo.

9 2. A human embryo or unborn child, at any stage of development, in which the
10 experiment or procedure is not related to the beneficial treatment of the human
11 embryo or unborn child.

12 (e) A procedure, including a transplant procedure, that uses fetal tissue or
13 organs other than fetal tissue or organs from a stillbirth, spontaneous abortion or
14 miscarriage.

15 (f) The withholding or withdrawal of nutrition or hydration, unless the
16 administration of nutrition or hydration is medically contraindicated.

17 (g) An act that causes or assists in causing the death of an individual, such as
18 by assisted suicide, euthanasia or mercy killing.

19 **(3)** A person licensed as a pharmacist under this chapter who, in writing,
20 refuses, or states an intention to refuse, on moral or religious grounds to engage in
21 a practice of pharmacy that is related to an activity specified in sub. (2) (a) to (g) shall
22 not be required to engage in the practice with respect to the activity and may not be
23 disciplined by the board or department for refusing or stating an intention to refuse
24 to engage in the practice with respect to the activity.

25 **SECTION 24. Initial applicability.**

