MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

By: Representatives Gipson, Alday, Arnold, To: Judiciary B Bain, Bell, Boyd, Brown (20th), Byrd, Carpenter, Chism, Hamilton, Jennings, Martinson, Nelson, Pigott, Rogers (14th), Rogers (61st), Rushing, Taylor, Turner, Weathersby, Moore, Monsour, Baker, Aldridge, Beckett, Formby, Mettetal, Eure, Bennett, Denny, Kinkade, Shirley, Willis, Crawford, Gunn

HOUSE BILL NO. 1400 (As Sent to Governor)

AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTIONS 41-41-131 THROUGH 41-41-145, 1 2 MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROHIBIT THE PERFORMING OR INDUCING 3 OF AN ABORTION AT OR AFTER 20 WEEKS GESTATIONAL AGE; TO PROHIBIT 4 THE PERFORMING OR INDUCING OF AN ABORTION UNTIL A PHYSICIAN MAKES 5 A DETERMINATION OF THE PROBABLE GESTATIONAL AGE OF THE UNBORN 6 CHILD; TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION OF PRIVACY IN COURT PROCEEDINGS OF THE IDENTITY OF THE 7 WOMAN ON WHOM AN ABORTION HAS BEEN PERFORMED OR INDUCED; TO AMEND 8 9 SECTION 73-25-29, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT A 10 PHYSICIAN WHO PERFORMS OR INDUCES AN ABORTION IN VIOLATION OF THIS 11 ACT IS SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. 12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: 13 **SECTION 1.** (1) The findings indicate that: 14 (a) Abortion can cause serious physical and 15 psychological (both short- and long-term) complications for women, 16 including, but not limited to: uterine perforation, uterine 17 scarring, cervical perforation or other injury, infection, 18 bleeding, hemorrhage, blood clots, failure to actually terminate 19 the pregnancy, incomplete abortion (retained tissue), pelvic 20 inflammatory disease, endometritis, missed ectopic pregnancy, 21 cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest, renal failure, metabolic 22 disorder, shock, embolism, coma, placenta previa in subsequent

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pregnancies, preterm birth in subsequent pregnancies, free fluid in the abdomen, organ damage, adverse reactions to anesthesia and other drugs, psychological or emotional complications such as depression, anxiety, sleeping disorders, and death;

(b) Abortion has a higher medical risk when the procedure is performed later in pregnancy. Compared to an abortion at eight (8) weeks gestation or earlier, the relative risk increases exponentially at higher gestations. L. Bartlett et al., risk factors for legal induced abortion-related mortality in the United States, Obstetrics & Gynecology 103(4):729 (2004);

33 (c) In fact, the incidence of major complications is 34 highest after twenty (20) weeks gestation. J. Pregler & A. 35 DeCherney, Women's Health; Principles and Clinical Practice 232 36 (2002);

37 According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the (d) 38 risk of death associated with abortion increases with the length 39 of pregnancy, from one (1) death for every one million (1,000,000) abortions at or before eight (8) weeks gestation to one (1) per 40 41 twenty-nine thousand (29,000) abortions at sixteen (16) to twenty 42 (20) weeks and one (1) per eleven thousand (11,000) abortions at 43 twenty-one (21) or more weeks (citing L. Bartlett et al., risk 44 factors for legal induced abortion-related mortality in the United States, Obstetrics & Gynecology 103(4):729-737 (2004)); 45

46 (e) After the first trimester, the risk of hemorrhage 47 from an abortion, in particular, is greater, and the resultant

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50 (f) The State of Mississippi has a legitimate concern 51 for the public's health and safety. *Williamson v. Lee Optical*, 52 348 U.S. 483, 486 (1985);

(g) The State of Mississippi "has legitimate interests from the outset of pregnancy in protecting the health of women." *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, 505 U.S.* 833.847 (1992). More specifically, the State of Mississippi "has a legitimate concern with the health of women who undergo abortions." Akron v. Akron Ctr. for Reproductive Health, Inc., 462 U.S. 416, 428-29 (1983);

(h) In addition, substantial medical evidence
recognizes that an unborn child is capable of experiencing pain by
not later than twenty (20) weeks gestational age:

(i) Pain receptors (nociceptors) are present
throughout the unborn child's entire body and nerves link these
receptors to the brain's thalamus and subcortical plate by no
later than twenty (20) weeks.

67 (ii) By eight (8) weeks after conception, the
68 unborn child reacts to touch. After twenty (20) weeks, the unborn
69 child reacts to stimuli that would be recognized as painful if
70 applied to an adult human, for example, by recoiling.

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H. B. No. 1400 14/HR40/R1296SG PAGE 3 (GT\BD) (iii) In the unborn child, application of such painful stimuli is associated with significant increases in stress hormones known as the stress response.

(iv) Subjection to such painful stimuli is associated with long-term harmful neurodevelopmental effects, such as altered pain sensitivity and, possibly, emotional, behavioral, and learning disabilities later in life.

(v) For the purposes of surgery on unborn
children, fetal anesthesia is routinely administered and is
associated with a decrease in stress hormones compared to their
level when painful stimuli are applied without such anesthesia.

82 The position, asserted by some medical (vi) 83 experts, that the unborn child is incapable of experiencing pain 84 until a point later in pregnancy than twenty (20) weeks after 85 conception predominately rests on the assumption that the ability 86 to experience pain depends on the cerebral cortex and requires 87 nerve connections between the thalamus and the cortex. However, recent medical research and analysis, especially since 2007, 88 89 provides strong evidence for the conclusion that a functioning 90 cortex is not necessary to experience pain.

91 (vii) Substantial evidence indicates that children
92 born missing the bulk of the cerebral cortex, those with
93 hydranencephaly, nevertheless experience pain.

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94 (viii) In adults, stimulation or ablation of the 95 cerebral cortex does not alter pain perception, while stimulation 96 or ablation of the thalamus does.

97 (ix) Substantial evidence indicates that 98 structures used for pain processing in early development differ 99 from those of adults, using different neural elements available at 100 specific times during development, such as the subcortical plate, 101 to fulfill the role of pain processing.

102 The position, asserted by some medical (X) experts, that the unborn child remains in a coma-like sleep state 103 104 that precludes the unborn child experiencing pain is inconsistent 105 with the documented reaction of unborn children to painful stimuli 106 and with the experience of fetal surgeons who have found it 107 necessary to sedate the unborn child with anesthesia to prevent the unborn child from thrashing about in reaction to invasive 108 109 surgery.

(i) The state has a compelling state interest in protecting the lives of unborn children from the stage at which substantial medical evidence indicates that these children are capable of feeling pain;

(j) The compelling state interest in protecting the lives of unborn children from the stage at which substantial medical evidence indicates that an unborn child is capable of feeling pain is intended to be separate from and independent of the compelling state interest in protecting the lives of unborn

119 children from the stage of viability, and neither state interest
120 is intended to replace the other; and

121 (k) Restricting elective abortions at or later than 122 twenty (20) weeks gestational age, as provided by Sections 123 41-41-131 through 41-41-145, does not impose an undue burden or a 124 substantial obstacle on a woman's ability to have an abortion 125 because:

(i) The State of Mississippi has an interest in
protecting maternal health from the outset of pregnancy, and women
face substantial risks from abortion as gestation increases;

(ii) The woman has adequate time to decide whether to have an abortion in the first twenty (20) weeks gestation; and (iii) Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 do not

apply to abortions that are necessary to avert the death or substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman or abortions that are performed on unborn children with severe fetal abnormalities.

136 The Legislature intends that every application of (2)137 Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 to every individual woman 138 shall be severable from each other. In the unexpected event that 139 the application of Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 is found 140 to impose an impermissible undue burden on any pregnant woman or group of pregnant women, the application of Sections 41-41-131 141 142 through 41-41-145 to those women shall be severed from the remaining applications of Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 143

144 that do not impose an undue burden, and those remaining

145 applications shall remain in force and unaffected, consistent with 146 Section 13 of this act.

147 SECTION 2. The following shall be codified as Section 148 41-41-131, Mississippi Code of 1972:

149 <u>41-41-131.</u> Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 may be cited 150 as the Women's Health Protection and Preborn Pain Act.

151 SECTION 3. The following shall be codified as Section 152 41-41-133, Mississippi Code of 1972:

153 41-41-133. As used in Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145:

(a) "Abortion" means the use or prescription of any
instrument, medicine, drug or any other substance or device to
terminate the pregnancy of a woman known to be pregnant with an
intention other than to increase the probability of a live birth,
to preserve the life or health of the child after live birth or to
remove a dead fetus.

(b) "Gestational age" means the time that has elapsed since the first day of the woman's last menstrual period as determined using methods consistent with standard medical practice in the community.

164 (c) "Severe fetal abnormality" means a life-threatening 165 physical condition that, in reasonable medical judgment, 166 regardless of the provision of life-saving medical treatment, is 167 incompatible with life outside the womb.

H. B. No. 1400 **~ OFFICIAL ~** 14/HR40/R1296SG PAGE 7 (GT\BD) (d) "Major bodily function" includes, but is not
limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth,
and digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory,
circulatory, endocrine and reproductive functions.

172 SECTION 4. The following shall be codified as Section173 41-41-135, Mississippi Code of 1972:

174 <u>41-41-135.</u> Except as otherwise provided by Section 175 41-41-141, a physician may not perform, or induce or attempt to 176 perform or induce an abortion without, before the procedure:

177 (a) Making a determination of the probable gestational178 age of the unborn child; or

(b) Possessing and relying on a determination of the probable gestational age of the unborn child made by another physician. The physician making such a determination must do so in accordance with reasonable medical judgment.

183 SECTION 5. The following shall be codified as Section 184 41-41-137, Mississippi Code of 1972:

185 <u>41-41-137.</u> Except as otherwise provided by Section 186 41-41-141, a person may not perform or induce or attempt to 187 perform or induce an abortion on a woman if it has been 188 determined, by the physician performing, inducing, or attempting 189 to perform or induce the abortion or by another physician on whose 190 determination that physician relies, that the probable gestational 191 age of the unborn child is twenty (20) or more weeks.

H. B. No. 1400 **~ OFFICIAL ~** 14/HR40/R1296SG PAGE 8 (gT\BD) 192 SECTION 6. The following shall be codified as Section193 41-41-139, Mississippi Code of 1972:

194 <u>41-41-139.</u> (1) This section applies only to an abortion 195 authorized under Section 41-41-141(1) in which:

196 (a) The probable gestational age of the unborn child is197 twenty (20) or more weeks; or

(b) The probable gestational age of the unborn child has not been determined but could reasonably be twenty (20) or more weeks.

(2) A physician performing or inducing an abortion under subsection (1) of this section shall terminate the pregnancy in the manner that, in the physician's reasonable medical judgment, provides the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive.

205 **SECTION 7.** The following shall be codified as Section 206 41-41-141, Mississippi Code of 1972:

207 41-41-141. (1) The prohibitions and requirements under 208 Sections 41-41-135, 41-41-137 and 41-41-139(2) do not apply if 209 there exists a condition in which an abortion is necessary to 210 preserve the life of the pregnant woman whose life is endangered 211 by a physical disorder, physical illness or physical injury, 212 including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, or when continuation of the 213 preqnancy will create a serious risk of substantial and 214 215 irreversible impairment of a major bodily function (as

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216 specifically defined in Section 3(d) of Section 41-41-133) of the 217 pregnant woman.

218 The prohibitions and requirements under Sections (2)219 41-41-135, 41-41-137 and 41-41-139(2) do not apply to an abortion 220 performed or induced on an unborn child who has a severe fetal 221 abnormality if the mother is informed twenty-four (24) hours 222 before the abortion that supportive care, including, but not 223 limited to, counseling and medical care by maternal-fetal medical 224 specialists, obstetricians, neonatologists, anesthesia 225 specialists, clergy, social workers, and specialty nurses focused 226 on alleviating fear and ensuring that the woman and her family 227 experience the life and death of their child in a comfortable and 228 supportive environment, is available should she choose to carry 229 her pregnancy to term.

230 SECTION 8. The following shall be codified as Section 231 41-41-143, Mississippi Code of 1972:

<u>41-41-143.</u> (1) Except as otherwise provided by this section, in a civil or criminal proceeding or action involving an act prohibited under Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145, the identity of the woman on whom an abortion has been performed or induced or attempted to be performed or induced is not subject to public disclosure if the woman does not give consent to disclosure.

(2) Unless the court makes a ruling under subsection (3) ofthis section to allow disclosure of the woman's identity, the

court shall issue orders to the parties, witnesses, and counsel and shall direct the sealing of the record and exclusion of individuals from courtrooms or hearing rooms to the extent necessary to protect the woman's identity from public disclosure.

245 (3) A court may order the disclosure of information that is 246 confidential under this section if:

247 (a) A motion is filed with the court requesting release248 of the information and a hearing on that request; and

(b) Notice of the hearing is served on each interestedparty.

251 (4) If the conditions specified in subsection (3) of this 252 section are fulfilled, then after an in camera hearing, for each 253 order issued under subsection (2) of this section that is 254 challenged by a motion under subsection (3) of this section, the 255 court shall either vacate the order or issue specific written 256 findings explaining why the anonymity of the woman should be 257 preserved from public disclosure, why the order is essential to 258 that end, how the order is narrowly tailored to serve that 259 interest, and why no reasonable less restrictive alternative 260 exists.

261 SECTION 9. The following shall be codified as Section 262 41-41-145, Mississippi Code of 1972:

<u>41-41-145.</u> (1) Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 shall
 be construed, as a matter of state law, to be enforceable up to
 but no further than the maximum possible extent consistent with

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272 If any court determines that a provision of Sections (2)273 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 is unconstitutionally vague, the court 274 shall interpret the provision, as a matter of state law, to avoid the vagueness problem and shall enforce the provision to the 275 276 maximum possible extent. If a federal court finds any provision 277 of Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 or its application to any 278 person, group of persons, or circumstances to be 279 unconstitutionally vague and declines to impose the saving construction described by this subsection, the Mississippi Supreme 280 281 Court shall provide an authoritative construction of the 282 objectionable statutory provisions that avoids the constitutional 283 problems while enforcing the statute's restrictions to the maximum 284 possible extent, and shall agree to answer any question certified 285 from a federal appellate court regarding the statute.

(3) State executive or administrative officials may not
decline to enforce Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145, or adopt
a construction of Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 in a way
that narrows their applicability, based on the official's own
beliefs about what the state or federal constitution requires,

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(4) Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 may not be construed to authorize the prosecution of or a cause of action to be brought against a woman on whom an abortion is performed or induced or attempted to be performed or induced in violation of Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145.

298 **SECTION 10.** Section 73-25-29, Mississippi Code of 1972, is 299 amended as follows:

300 73-25-29. The grounds for the nonissuance, suspension, 301 revocation or restriction of a license or the denial of 302 reinstatement or renewal of a license are:

303 (1) Habitual personal use of narcotic drugs, or any 304 other drug having addiction-forming or addiction-sustaining 305 liability.

306 (2) Habitual use of intoxicating liquors, or any307 beverage, to an extent which affects professional competency.

308 (3) Administering, dispensing or prescribing any
309 narcotic drug, or any other drug having addiction-forming or
310 addiction-sustaining liability otherwise than in the course of
311 legitimate professional practice.

312 (4) Conviction of violation of any federal or state law
313 regulating the possession, distribution or use of any narcotic
314 drug or any drug considered a controlled substance under state or
315 federal law, a certified copy of the conviction order or judgment

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318 (5) Procuring, or attempting to procure, or aiding in,319 an abortion that is not medically indicated.

(6) Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor involving
 moral turpitude, a certified copy of the conviction order or
 judgment rendered by the trial court being prima facie evidence
 thereof, notwithstanding the pendency of any appeal.

324 (7) Obtaining or attempting to obtain a license by325 fraud or deception.

326 (8) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not327 limited to:

328 (a) Practicing medicine under a false or assumed329 name or impersonating another practitioner, living or dead.

330 (b) Knowingly performing any act which in any way331 assists an unlicensed person to practice medicine.

(c) Making or willfully causing to be made anyflamboyant claims concerning the licensee's professional

334 excellence.

335 (d) Being guilty of any dishonorable or unethical336 conduct likely to deceive, defraud or harm the public.

337 (e) Obtaining a fee as personal compensation or
338 gain from a person on fraudulent representation of a disease or
339 injury condition generally considered incurable by competent
340 medical authority in the light of current scientific knowledge and

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(f) Use of any false, fraudulent or forged statement or document, or the use of any fraudulent, deceitful, dishonest or immoral practice in connection with any of the licensing requirements, including the signing in his professional capacity any certificate that is known to be false at the time he makes or signs such certificate.

(g) Failing to identify a physician's school of practice in all professional uses of his name by use of his earned degree or a description of his school of practice.

353 (9) The refusal of a licensing authority of another 354 state or jurisdiction to issue or renew a license, permit or 355 certificate to practice medicine in that jurisdiction or the 356 revocation, suspension or other restriction imposed on a license, 357 permit or certificate issued by such licensing authority which 358 prevents or restricts practice in that jurisdiction, a certified 359 copy of the disciplinary order or action taken by the other state 360 or jurisdiction being prima facie evidence thereof,

361 notwithstanding the pendency of any appeal.

362 (10) Surrender of a license or authorization to
 363 practice medicine in another state or jurisdiction or surrender of
 364 membership on any medical staff or in any medical or professional
 365 association or society while under disciplinary investigation by

366 any of those authorities or bodies for acts or conduct similar to 367 acts or conduct which would constitute grounds for action as 368 defined in this section.

369 Final sanctions imposed by the United States (11)Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector 370 371 General or any successor federal agency or office, based upon a 372 finding of incompetency, gross misconduct or failure to meet 373 professionally recognized standards of health care; a certified 374 copy of the notice of final sanction being prima facie evidence 375 thereof. As used in this paragraph, the term "final sanction" 376 means the written notice to a physician from the United States 377 Department of Health and Human Services, Officer of Inspector 378 General or any successor federal agency or office, which 379 implements the exclusion.

380 (12) Failure to furnish the board, its investigators or381 representatives information legally requested by the board.

382 (13) Violation of any provision(s) of the Medical
383 Practice Act or the rules and regulations of the board or of any
384 order, stipulation or agreement with the board.

385 (14) Violation(s) of the provisions of Sections
386 41-121-1 through 41-121-9 relating to deceptive advertisement by
387 health care practitioners. This paragraph shall stand repealed on
388 July 1, 2016.

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389 (15) Performing or inducing an abortion on a woman in

390 violation of any provision of Sections 41-41-131 through

391 41-41-145.

392 In addition to the grounds specified above, the board shall 393 be authorized to suspend the license of any licensee for being out 394 of compliance with an order for support, as defined in Section 395 93-11-153. The procedure for suspension of a license for being 396 out of compliance with an order for support, and the procedure for 397 the reissuance or reinstatement of a license suspended for that purpose, and the payment of any fees for the reissuance or 398 399 reinstatement of a license suspended for that purpose, shall be 400 governed by Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be. 401 If there is any conflict between any provision of Section 402 93-11-157 or 93-11-163 and any provision of this chapter, the 403 provisions of Section 93-11-157 or 93-11-163, as the case may be, 404 shall control.

405 SECTION 11. Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 may not be 406 construed to repeal, by implication or otherwise, any other 407 provision of Mississippi law regulating or restricting abortion 408 not specifically addressed by Sections 41-41-131 through 409 41-41-145. An abortion that complies with Sections 41-41-131 410 through 41-41-145 but violates any other law is unlawful. An abortion that complies with another state law but violates 411 412 Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 is unlawful as provided in Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145. 413

414 SECTION 12. (1) If some or all of the provisions of 415 Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 are ever temporarily or permanently restrained or enjoined by judicial order, all other 416 417 provisions of Mississippi law regulating or restricting abortion 418 shall be enforced as though the restrained or enjoined provisions 419 had not been adopted; however, whenever the temporary or permanent 420 restraining order or injunction is stayed or dissolved, or 421 otherwise ceases to have effect, the provisions shall have full 422 force and effect.

Mindful of Leavitt v. Jane L., 518 U.S. 137 (1996), in 423 (2) 424 which in the context of determining the severability of a state 425 statute regulating abortion the United States Supreme Court held 426 that an explicit statement of legislative intent is controlling, 427 it is the intent of the Legislature that every provision, section, 428 subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word in 429 Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145, and every application of the 430 provisions in Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145, are severable 431 from each other. If any application of any provision in Sections 432 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 to any person, group of persons, or 433 circumstances is found by a court to be invalid, the remaining 434 applications of that provision to all other persons and 435 circumstances shall be severed and may not be affected. All 436 constitutionally valid applications of Sections 41-41-131 through 437 41-41-145 shall be severed from any applications that a court finds to be invalid, leaving the valid applications in force, 438

439 because it is the Legislature's intent and priority that the valid 440 applications be allowed to stand alone. Even if a reviewing court 441 finds a provision of Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 to 442 impose an undue burden in a large or substantial fraction of 443 relevant cases, the applications that do not represent an undue 444 burden shall be severed from the remaining provisions and shall 445 remain in force, and shall be treated as if the Legislature had 446 enacted a statute limited to the persons, group of persons, or 447 circumstances for which the statute's application does not present 448 an undue burden. The Legislature further declares that it would 449 have passed Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145, and each 450 provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word, 451 and all constitutional applications of Sections 41-41-131 through 452 41-41-145, irrespective of the fact that any provision, section, 453 subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word, or 454 applications of Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145, were to be 455 declared unconstitutional or to represent an undue burden.

(3) If Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 are found by any court to be invalid or to impose an undue burden as applied to any person, group of persons, or circumstances, the prohibition shall apply to that person or group of persons or circumstances on the earliest date on which Sections 41-41-131 through 41-41-145 can be constitutionally applied.

462 (4) If any provisions of Sections 41-41-131 through
463 41-41-145 is found by any court to be unconstitutionally vague,

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465 constitutional vagueness problems shall be severed and remain in 466 force.

467 **SECTION 13.** This act shall take effect and be in force from 468 and after July 1, 2014.

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