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Oklahoma Supreme Court puts brakes on abortion law that was to have gone into effect next week

Barbara Hoberock Oct 27, 2015 0

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O KLAHOMA CITY — An abortion law that was set to go into effect Sunday was put on hold Monday by the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

The law, Senate Bill 642 by Sen. Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City, would require abortion providers to take a sample of the fetal tissue when the abortion patient is younger than 14 and send it to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

The bill was passed as a measure aimed at catching child rapists, its supporters say.

Norman abortion provider Dr. Larry Burns filed a lawsuit challenging the law as unconstitutional, saying it deals with more than one subject. The New York-based Center for Reproductive Rights, which has successfully challenged several other Oklahoma abortion bills, is representing Burns.



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Center attorney Ilene Jaroslaw argued Oct. 13 before a state Supreme Court referee that, in addition to the fetal-tissue requirement, the act makes it a crime to assist a minor in obtaining an abortion without parental consent; requires the Department of Health to establish policies for licensing-related inspections; and establishes broad criminal and civil penalties as well as civil liability for a violation of abortion laws.

The measure amends one law and creates three new laws, she said. “This case is classic logrolling,” she said.

The state’s high court rendered no opinion on the measure’s constitutionality Monday, but sent the lawsuit to district court to be litigated.

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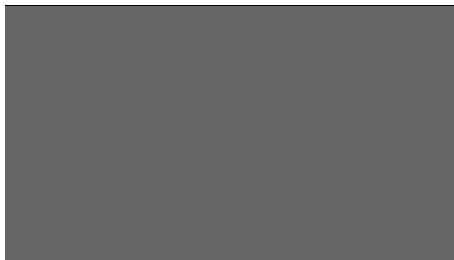
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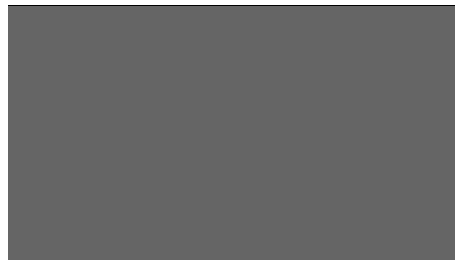
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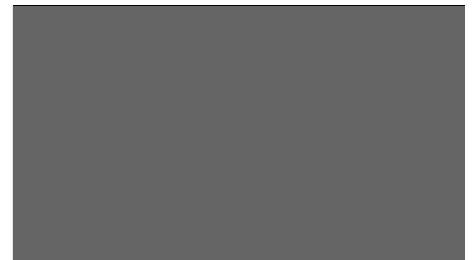
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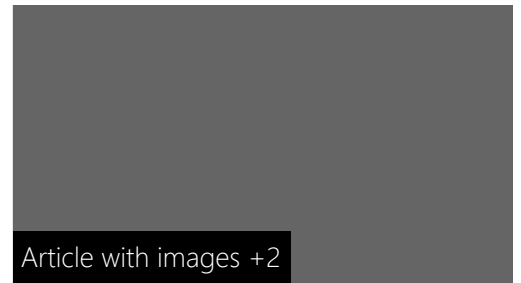


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The child was reported missing shortly before a family member discovered his or her body on the property south of Kiefer, according to the Creek County Sheriff's Office.



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A federal grand jury charged William Ray Turner, 30, in a 27-count wire fraud and aggravated identity theft indictment on allegations that he made more than \$1 million in fraudulent vehicle sales as a sales associate at a Bartlesville car dealership.

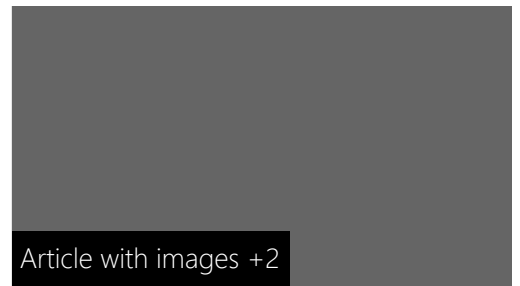


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"You expect it to be like this relief, like everything after the fact is just right in the world," Shamia Thomas said. "But in reality — yes, we got justice, he's behind bars — but nothing's all right again, because that person's still gone."



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