



Legislator urges bills for disposal of fetuses

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RON FRENCH

Detroit News Lansing Bureau

Lansing — A Lansing-area legislator is pushing for stiffer regulations governing the handling of aborted fetuses after 17 were allegedly found in a trash bin outside a Lansing women's reproductive health clinic.

The fetuses, dug out of the bin by an abortion protester in February, were in a formaldehyde solution inside biohazard bags, Rep. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, said Wednesday. Over the course of several months, the protester also recovered medical waste and medical records of patients.

An investigation by the Eaton County Prosecutor's Office and the Michigan Attorney General's Office determined the disposal of the fetuses was "in technical compliance" with Michigan laws, according to Doug Lloyd, chief assistant prosecutor in Eaton County.

"I'm shocked by this dumping of 17 babies into a trash Dumpster in my district, and I was further appalled that this may be a legal act under Michigan law," Jones said Wednesday at a news conference. A person who answered the telephone at WomansChoice Clinic said no one was commenting for the story.

Under a set of bills, sponsored by Jones, Rep. Joe Haveman, R-Holland, and Rep. Bob Genetski, R-Saugatuck, clinics would need to dispose of fetuses by burial, cremation or by donating them to science. Parents would be allowed to choose an option, but clinics would not be required to ask. Violation of the law could be punishable by up to three years in jail and a fine of up to \$5,000.

Currently, aborted fetuses must be disposed of in the same manner as medical waste.

Jones doubts the bills will be addressed during the lame duck session of the Legislature, but "I plan to reintroduce them in January."

"I feel confident I can get them through the Senate," Jones said. "The House is more problematic, but I'll do everything I can."

Jones, who is term limited, is running for the state Senate; Genetski and Haveman are running for re-election to the House.

rfrench@detnews.com
(313) 222-2470