Abortion made crime

BATON ROUGE (AP) — Louisiana's House voted 74 to 27 Thursday to make abortion a crime, in an intended challenge of the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion on demand.

The state Senate next gets the bill by Rep. Woody Jenkins.

The measure would allow abortion only to save the life of the mother.

House members twice voted against including an exception that would allow abortions in cases of rape and incest.

Gov. Buddy Roemer repeated his pledge earlier in the day to veto any bill that does not contain exceptions for victims of rape and incest.

"I think the governor will reconsider if he's truly pro-life as he says," Jenkins said later.

About 100 anti-abortion advocates in the upstairs gallery cheered when the vote was taken.

"What the House has done will awaken a strong majority in the state," pro-choice coalition leader Robin Hoffbeck said. "People will come to this Capitol and tell the Legislature to stay out of our business."

Sen. Mike Cronan, D-Baton Rouge, who will handle the bill in the Senate, acknowledged it will have a tougher fight to keep the bill