regulate abortions in the final months or after it is determined that the unborn child could survive outside the womb.

Such abortions are allowed when a woman's life is at stake, for example, or when her health may be seriously endangered.

The state law passed last year said abortions in the first trimester must be performed in a hospital. Opponents argued those abortions are simple procedures that can be performed in a doctor's office or clinic.

They also pointed out that no hospitals in Louisiana perform first trimester abortions on demand.

The proposed law says only that such abortions must be performed by a doctor in a licensed facility that meets the regulations for other facilities offering medical treatment of similar complexity and risk.

The old law said that in an abortion involving an unborn child that might survive, everything possible must be done to save its life.

The proposed law says that everything should be done to save the unborn as long as it does not threaten the mother's health.

The emphasis is on the mother, not the unborn.

Under the old law, it was assumed that an unborn could survive after 24 weeks. Following court directions, the proposed law leaves that determination up to the doctor.

The proposed law still requires that a woman be fully informed about what an abortion is and how it will be performed, but it no longer requires that she be told that the unborn within her is a human being.

The proposed law also removes a mandatory waiting period of 24 hours between the time a woman decides to have an abortion and the time it is actually performed.

It also removes the requirement that a pregnant woman be told that an abortion is a serious medical procedure which may result in physical and mental complications.

The proposed law says that abortion records should not contain the names and addresses of women who get them.

State officials can inspect abortion clinics under the proposed law but only in the manner and frequency that they inspect other facilities performing similar medical care.

And the proposed law still requires that minors get permission from a parent or a court before having an abortion, but it does not require that both parents be notified before the abortion is performed.

Sen. Cliff Newman of Lake Charles also has an abortion bill in the works, but he says it is not pro-abortion or anti-abortion. Newman's bill says that a man can divorce his wife if she gets an abortion without his knowledge.

"I just put myself in the position of that husband," he said, adding that he has run across such things in his private law practice.