House endorses anti-abortion resolution

By ALLAN PURSNEILL

The House voted Thursday to authorize district attorneys across the state to enforce Louisiana's criminal abortion laws to the extent possible under the U.S. Constitution.

The joint resolution, which comes in reaction to a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding Missouri's right to limit abortions, was approved 61-13 and now goes to the Senate for action. Senate action has no effect of law, but merely expresses the intent of the Legislature.

Rep. Louis "Windy" Jenkins, El-Borax Rouge, who was a co-sponsor of the resolution along with Speaker Jimmy Davis, DeRidder, said HR19 asks the district attorneys to go to court in an effort to lift federal court injunctions that blocked the state's abortion laws following the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

Jenkins told reporters that it would not be necessary for the district attorneys to actually arrest someone in violation of the abortion laws.

Jenkins said the grammarian can ask the federal courts to lift the injunctions that blocked the laws. The resolution also says that the state's abortion laws have been valid all along, but that the federal courts have misinterpreted the U.S. Constitution.

"The resolution asks them to go to court to lift the injunctions so the state can enforce its abortion laws," Jenkins said. "We don't think any human being has the right to lift another person's housing.""Do you know what Mr. Jenkins is saying?" Rep. Administrative Jackson, B. Hahn, said in opposition to the resolution. "Even when a woman's life is in danger and she chooses to have an abortion, the law says no jail if she performs an abortion.""Rep. Ray Hardin, St.-Baton Rouge, said House members didn't even read the bill before taking up the resolution.

"We are taking the (Jenkins') word for it," Hardin said. "I'm too stupid to read the bill.""House members don't realize that abortion laws that make the provisions to enforce, but they do refer to various statutes. A list of the statutes provided by the resolution contains a provision on abortion with 18 years' imprisonment for violation. A provision on killing a child during delivery carrying a penalty of life imprisonment. A provision against intervention with human embryos or destruction of a human embryo or fetus, carrying a penalty of time to be determined by the court and if any up to $5,000. A provision on advertising abortion services, carrying a penalty of up to a year in prison and a fine of up to $1,000. A provision on intentional failures to file and health of an aborted, viable fetus, carrying a penalty of up to 24 years in prison. A provision on distributions of advertisements for any single, person, instrument or article for the purpose of preventing an abortion, carrying a penalty of up to 20 months in jail and $500 fine.}