Abortion veto voided

Override first this century

By DOUG MYERS

Gov. Buddy Roemer became the first governor in modern Louisiana history to override a legislative veto aimed at outlawing most abortions. However, the American Civil Liberties Union immediately tried to seek an injunction to block the bill.

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The bill's effects were immediate. The Louisiana Senate voted 25-18 in favor of the bill. Twenty-six votes were needed.

The bill, known as the "Life Protection Act," would prohibit abortions in cases of "person in a state of health, life-threatening illness or emotional distress of up to 10 years, and of up to 100,000 for doctors who perform illegal abortions." Attorney General William Guste issued a statement saying the bill is "unconstitutional and should not be considered by the legislature or the courts." He then announced plans to seek a resolution Wednesday to stop the bill for the rape and incest exceptions.

"The governor cannot veto a legislative veto," Jenkins said. "But a spokesman for the attorney general's office said the bill may not take effect for up to 60 days after the Legislature adjourns." Steve Waitsky, a spokesman for the governor, said the bill would take effect immediately if the governor signs it.

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