

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1544

By: Representatives Underwood, Lundstrum, Bryant, Haak, Dotson, Furman, Bentley
By: Senator G. Stubblefield

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AFFIRM THE RIGHT OF A MUNICIPALITY TO
DECLARE THE MUNICIPALITY A PRO-LIFE CITY; AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AFFIRM THE RIGHT OF A MUNICIPALITY TO
DECLARE THE MUNICIPALITY A PRO-LIFE CITY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 14, Chapter 54, Subchapter 8, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

14-54-805. Pro-Life City designation.

(a) A municipality may state by resolution:

(1) That the policy of the municipality is to promote and protect the dignity and humanity of all persons at all stages of life from conception until natural death;

(2) That the municipality is to be known as a "Pro-Life City";
and

(3) The following findings:

(A) The Declaration of Independence declares that all men are created equal, and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including the right to life;

(B) Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 68, states that the policy of the state is to protect the life of every unborn child from conception until birth;



(C) It is the duty of state and local government to protect the unalienable right to life of every person within each respective jurisdiction; and

(D) The United States Supreme Court found in Poelker v. Doe, 432 U.S. 519 (1977), that the United States Constitution does not prohibit a municipality using democratic processes from expressing a preference for childbirth rather than abortion.

(b) A municipality that passes a resolution under subsection (a) of this section may promote the Pro-Life City status in a manner consistent with other law, including without limitation by:

(1) Placing signs along rights-of-way near the boundaries of the municipality;

(2) Advertising in any promotion, advertisement, or public relations effort;

(3) Placing signs or banners on municipal property;

(4) Placing a slogan or other notation on municipal utility billing or other communications to municipal residents;

(5) Producing and distributing signs, decals, or other material for businesses or residents to voluntarily use and display;

(6) Promoting at festivals, parades, or other public events;

(7) Urging municipal employees to develop and implement innovative and creative ways for promotion;

(8) Placing a slogan or other notation on publicly owned vehicles;

(9) Declaring pro-life observances, such as a pro-life day or pro-life month;

(10) Encouraging local schools and civic clubs to promote the dignity of human life;

(11) Encouraging local places of worship to promote the sanctity of human life;

(12) Erecting monuments or other permanent memorials to lives lost to abortion;

(13) Establishing a cemetery or other place for the dignified burial of the unborn and for memorials to those who have died in an abortion; and

(14) Using public service announcements.

APPROVED: 3/17/21