

[S. 1383: An Act to assure informed consent for pelvic examinations of anesthetized or unconscious patients](#)

Status: Senate has referred this bill to the committee on Public Health

Sponsored: Senator Joanne M. Comerford

Key Aims:

- Informed Consent: The bill requires that a healthcare provider or a student undertaking a course of professional instruction or a clinical training program obtain specific informed consent in writing from a patient before performing a pelvic examination on an anesthetized or unconscious patient.
- Protection of Patients: The bill aims to protect the rights and autonomy of patients by ensuring that they are fully informed and have the opportunity to provide explicit consent before undergoing pelvic examinations while under anesthesia or unconscious.
- Exceptions: Pelvic examinations can be performed without specific informed consent in writing if the examination is within the scope of care for the surgical procedure or diagnostic examination to be performed on the patient, or if the pelvic examination is required for diagnostic purposes in the case of an unconscious patient.

Impact

S. 1383 seeks to establish a requirement for obtaining informed consent in writing from patients for pelvic examinations of anesthetized or unconscious patients, with limited exceptions for surgical or diagnostic purposes. The bill will enhance patient autonomy by ensuring that patients have the right to provide explicit informed consent in writing before undergoing pelvic examinations while under anesthesia or unconscious. This empowers patients to make informed decisions about their medical care, including pelvic examinations, and gives them the opportunity to actively participate in the decision-making process.

This bill sets a higher ethical standard for health care providers and students by emphasizing the importance of informed consent in the context of pelvic examinations. It highlights the need for clear communication and respect for patient autonomy in medical practice, which can contribute to improved patient-provider relationships and trust. Overall, S. 1383 has the potential to strengthen patient rights, promote ethical medical practices, and enhance protections for vulnerable patients in the context of pelvic examinations performed on anesthetized or unconscious patients.