

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 879

2 INTRODUCED BY L. SHELDON-GALLOWAY

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A ~~POST-ABORTION~~ POSTPREGNANCY
5 COUNSELING PROGRAM; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION;
6 AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

7

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

9

10 NEW SECTION. Section 1. ~~Post-abortion~~ Postpregnancy counseling -- rulemaking authority --
11 confidentiality. (1) The department shall establish a program to pay for counseling for women who are
12 experiencing trauma related to ~~an abortion~~ pregnancy or pregnancy outcomes.

13 (2) The department shall adopt ~~rules that include but are not limited to:~~ eligibility requirements for
14 receiving assistance under the program.

15 ~~(a) the eligibility requirements for receiving assistance under the program;~~

16 ~~(b) the application process for obtaining assistance; and~~

17 ~~(b) the types and duration of counseling to be covered under the program.~~

18 (3) The eligibility criteria may not include limits on an applicant's income or the amount of time that
19 has elapsed since ~~an abortion was performed~~ the pregnancy concluded.

20 ~~(4) The department may not require an applicant to divulge:~~

21 ~~(a) the duration or outcome of the pregnancy;~~

22 ~~(b) the name or location of the applicant's chosen mental health professional; or~~

23 ~~(c) the manner in which the pregnancy concluded.~~

24 ~~(4)(5)~~ The department shall maintain the confidentiality of applicants for assistance under the
25 program.

26 ~~(5)(6)~~ The department shall include in the report required under 50-20-110 statistical data on the
27 number of women receiving assistance under the program and the amount of money spent for counseling
28 services.

