

# HB644 INTRODUCED



1 HB644  
2 L5R4CYA-1  
3 By Representatives Chestnut, Hollis, Drummond, Warren,  
4 Lawrence, Clarke, Hulsey, Hall, Brown, Pringle  
5 RFD: Judiciary  
6 First Read: 19-Mar-26



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SYNOPSIS:

Female genital mutilation is the practice of partially or totally removing the external genitalia of a girl or young woman for nonmedical reasons and has been criminalized in the United States federally and in multiple states.

This bill would establish the crime of female genital mutilation, provide criminal penalties, and provide an exception only under limited circumstances when medically necessary.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to crimes and offenses; to establish the crime of female genital mutilation; and to provide criminal penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the term "female genital mutilation" means to remove, cut, circumcise, excise, mutilate, infibulate, or reinfibulate, in whole or in part, the labia majora, labia minora, or clitoris of a female under 19 years of age. The term includes a



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29 clitoridectomy. The term also includes any other harmful  
30 procedure to the female genitalia for nonmedical purposes,  
31 including incising, piercing, scraping, nicking, cauterizing,  
32 burning, and scarring.

33 (b) An individual is guilty of a Class B felony if he  
34 or she does any of the following:

35 (1) Commits female genital mutilation on a female under  
36 19 years of age.

37 (2) Is a parent, legal guardian, or has immediate  
38 custody or control of a female under 19 years of age and  
39 knowingly allows, authorizes, or directs another individual to  
40 commit female genital mutilation on the female.

41 (3) Knowingly removes or causes or permits the removal  
42 of a female under 19 years of age from this state for the  
43 purpose of committing or allowing, authorizing, or directing  
44 another individual to commit female genital mutilation.

45 (c) An individual under 19 years of age is incapable of  
46 consenting to female genital mutilation.

47 (d) It is not a defense to subsection (b) that the  
48 conduct is required as a matter of religion, custom, ritual,  
49 or standard practice, or that the female on whom the conduct  
50 is performed, or the parent or legal guardian of the female,  
51 consented to the act.

52 (e) This section does not apply to procedures performed  
53 by or under the direction of a licensed physician when  
54 determined to be medically necessary to preserve the physical  
55 health of the female.

56 (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to



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57 establish a standard of care for hospitals or physicians or  
58 otherwise modify, amend, or supersede any provision of the  
59 Alabama Medical Liability Act of 1987 or the Alabama Medical  
60 Liability Act of 1996, or any amendment or judicial  
61 interpretation of either act.

62 Section 2. This act shall become effective June 1,  
63 2026.