# Louisiana Legislature Passes Bill to Reclassify Abortion-Inducing Drugs as Controlled Substances



On May 23, 2024, the Louisiana legislature passed a bill reclassifying the abortion-inducing drugs mifepristone and misoprostol as Schedule IV controlled dangerous substances. The bill, supported by Republican lawmakers, aims to curb coerced abortions and restrict unlawful distribution. It now awaits the signature of Republican Governor Jeff Landry, who is expected to approve it.

Under this legislation, possession of these drugs without a prescription could result in fines and jail time. While mifepristone and misoprostol are commonly used for medication abortions and other reproductive health treatments, such as treating miscarriages and preventing ulcers, the new classification would impose stricter regulations on their prescription and storage.

Louisiana currently has a near-total abortion ban, and this bill could influence other states with similar restrictions. Critics, including over 200 local doctors and Vice President Kamala Harris, argue that the law could impede access to essential reproductive healthcare and exacerbate maternal mortality rates. Doctors have voiced concerns that the reclassification could delay necessary treatments for their patients.

Despite controversy, proponents argue the legislation protects against the misuse of these drugs. The Food and Drug Administration does not classify these medications as controlled substances due to their low risk of abuse. However, the bill emphasizes preventing illegal use.

Gov. Landry, supported by former President Donald Trump, has not commented but has shown support for the measure. The law is expected to generate significant implications for reproductive rights and healthcare access in Louisiana and other states considering similar actions.