

New York governor plans abortion overhaul

by UPI

ALBANY, N.Y. - New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer announced he plans to introduce legislation aimed at overhauling the state's abortion policies.

Spitzer's plan, the Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act, would update the state's abortion law by allowing women to have abortions late in their pregnancies to protect their health, The New York Times reported Thursday.

The governor's office said the law would also classify abortion as a matter of professional and medical discretion and remove a statute "that criminalizes, among other things, providing nonprescription contraception to minors."

New York's current abortion law classifies the act as homicide but with broad exceptions. Spitzer's new law would remove the criminal status from abortion.

However, it is unclear whether the bill will be passed by the state's Republican-controlled legislature.

The bill follows a U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, which prohibits late-term abortions.

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