

*CBS Mornings*

05/17/23

7:00:55 a.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Restrictive Abortion Law]

TONY DOKOUPIL: Republican lawmakers in North Carolina pass new abortion restrictions over a veto by the governor.

NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRAT: This devastating ban on abortion is deeply unpopular.

(...)

7:03:27 a.m.

2 minutes and 51 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking Overnight; New Abortion Restrictions; North Carolina & Montana Adopt Restrictive New Abortion Measures]

GAYLE KING: But first, we're going to start with this: There's been a dramatic shift in the laws on abortion affecting millions of women in this country. In North Carolina, abortion rights supporters protested last night's vote by Republican lawmakers to override the governor's veto and establish a 12-week limit on abortions. In Montana, where the state constitution protects abortion rights, the governor signed a bill yesterday there to outlaw the most common method of abortion after 15 weeks. Montana and North Carolina join other Republican-controlled states in reducing abortion access. Caitlin Huey-Burns is in Raleigh. That, of course, is the capital of North Carolina, with more on the story. Caitlin, good morning to you.

CAITLIN HUEY-BURNS: Good morning, Gayle. Well, North Carolina had been one of the few remaining states in the south with access to abortion. Now, it joins 19 other states that have either banned or restricted the procedure. And to get it done, Republicans here pushed the measure through in just 42 hours.

NORTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN LAWMAKER: The bill becomes law.

HUEY-BURNS: At North Carolina's state capitol in Raleigh Tuesday night, Republicans overruled the Democratic governor —

PROTESTERS: Shame! Shame!

HUEY-BURNS: — and pushed through new abortion restrictions. Under the new law, which goes into effect July 1, most abortions will be banned after 12 weeks of pregnancy, a reduction from 20 weeks under the previous law.

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER (D-NC): The veto stamp has been applied.

HUEY-BURNS: Just three days earlier, North Carolina's Democratic governor, Roy Cooper, rejected the bill.

COOPER: It will make abortion unavailable to many women.

HUEY-BURNS: But his power is limited. Last month a Democratic state representative from the liberal-leaning Charlotte area switched parties just five months after elections.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TRICIA COTHAM (R-NC) [on 04/05/23]: I will not be controlled by anyone.

HUEY-BURNS: The change gave Republicans a supermajority and the power to override vetoes from Governor Cooper. [TO COOPER] Is there anything that you can do unilaterally on the issue of abortion?

COOPER: We will never stop fighting to protect women's health.

HUEY-BURNS: The White House protested late Tuesday night, saying "women have been...left with no choice but to travel hundreds of miles for the care they need."

A WOMAN'S CHOICE CEO KELLY FLYNN [in October 2022]: We just helped a patient from Alabama.

HUEY-BURNS: We went to a clinic in Raleigh last October that was already seeing a surge in out-of-state patients.

FLYNN [in October 2022]: They drove a 10.5-hour trip to make sure they were at the clinic at 9:00 that morning.

HUEY-BURNS [in October 2022]: 10.5 hours each way?

FLYNN [in October 2022]: Mmhmm. Each way.

HUEY-BURNS: Now, there are only two states in the south that offer unrestricted — relatively unrestricted access to abortion, that's Virginia and neighboring South Carolina. But, Gayle, Republicans in South Carolina are working to push through a six-week abortion ban.

KING: All right, Caitlin. The conversation continues. Thank you very much.

(...)

8:01:29 a.m.

11 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: NC Abortion Restrictions]

[PROTESTERS SCREAMING]

DOKOUPIL: North Carolina state Republicans override a veto to pass a new law banning most abortions after just 12 weeks of pregnancy.