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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

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Office

S.B. 50  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Maharath and Antonio

Audra Tidball, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Prohibits specified licensed health care professionals from practicing conversion therapy on minors.
- Requires state licensing boards to sanction health care professionals who practice conversion therapy on minors.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Conversion therapy prohibition

The bill prohibits specified licensed health care professionals, or any person who has applied for health care professional licensure, from practicing conversion therapy on minors when providing mental health treatment. Under the bill, conversion therapy is the practice of attempting to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. This practice includes attempting to change behaviors or gender expressions or reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attraction or feelings towards people of the same gender.<sup>1</sup>

#### Professions impacted

The bill specifies that the following health care professionals may not practice conversion therapy on minors:

- Advanced practice registered nurses designated as clinical nurse specialists;
- Physicians;
- Psychologists;

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4743.09(A)(2).

- Counselors;
- Social workers;
- Marriage and family therapists; and
- Chemical dependency counselors.<sup>2</sup>

## Penalties

If a health care professional performs conversion therapy on a minor, the bill requires the relevant licensing board to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew the professional's license or certificate of registration.<sup>3</sup>

## Practices not considered conversion therapy

The bill specifies that some practices that do not seek to change the minor's sexual orientation or gender identity are not prohibited. Health care professionals may continue to assist patients with voluntary gender transitions; provide acceptance, support, and understanding; and facilitate a patient's coping, social support, or identity exploration and development. Health care professionals also may continue to address unlawful conduct or unsafe sex practices as long as the interventions are sexual orientation-neutral.<sup>4</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-04-21

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ANSB0050IN-134/ts

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<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4743.09(A)(3)(a) to (g).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4723.93, 4731.45, 4732.34, 4743.09(D), 4757.46, and 4758.73.

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 4743.09(C).