



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

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S.B. 126

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. Tavares, Thomas, Yuko, Schiavoni, Skindell, Williams

BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits specified health care professionals from engaging in conversion therapy when providing mental health treatment to minors.
 - Requires professional regulatory boards to impose disciplinary sanctions for violating the prohibition.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Prohibition on conversion therapy for minors

The bill prohibits specified health care professionals and those applying for the authority to practice a specified profession from engaging in conversion therapy when providing mental health treatment to a minor.¹ "Conversion therapy" means the practice of seeking to change a person's sexual orientation, including efforts to change behaviors, gender identity, or gender expressions, or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward a person of the same gender.²

The health care professions subject to the prohibition are physicians, clinical nurse specialists, psychologists, licensed professional clinical counselors, licensed professional counselors, independent social workers, social workers, social work assistants, independent marriage and family therapists, and marriage and family therapists.³

¹ R.C. 4743.09(B).

² R.C. 4743.09(A)(2).

³ R.C. 4743.09(A)(3).

The bill specifies that the prohibition does not include any of the following:⁴

--Assisting a patient who seeks to transition, is in the process of transitioning, or has transitioned from one gender to another;

--Providing a patient with acceptance, support, and understanding or facilitating a patient's coping, social support, or identity exploration and development;

--Providing a patient with sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices; or

--Counseling that does not seek to change a patient's sexual orientation.

Disciplinary sanctions

A professional regulatory board that regulates a profession subject to the bill's prohibition must suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew the certification, license, or registration of a health care professional or applicant who violates the bill's prohibition.⁵ The boards subject to this requirement are the State Medical Board, Board of Nursing, State Board of Psychology, and Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.⁶

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	04-05-17

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⁴ R.C. 4743.09(C).

⁵ R.C. 4743.09(D).

⁶ R.C. 4723.93, 4731.92, 4732.34, and 4757.46.

