

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to conversion therapy; creating s.
 3 456.064, F.S.; defining the term "conversion therapy";
 4 prohibiting persons who are licensed to provide
 5 professional counseling and various practitioners who
 6 are licensed under provisions regulating the practice
 7 of medicine, osteopathic medicine, psychology,
 8 clinical social work, marriage and family therapy, or
 9 mental health counseling from engaging in conversion
 10 therapy with a person who is younger than a specified
 11 age; providing an effective date.

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 13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 15 Section 1. Section 456.064, Florida Statutes, is created
 16 to read:

17 456.064 Conversion therapy.-

18 (1) As used in this section, the term "conversion therapy"
 19 means any practice or treatment performed with the goal of
 20 changing a person's sexual orientation, including, but not
 21 limited to, efforts to change behavior, gender identity, or
 22 gender expression, or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic
 23 attraction or feelings toward a person of the same gender. The
 24 term does not include counseling that:

25 (a) Provides support to a person actively undergoing
 26 gender transition; or

27 (b) Provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a
28 person or facilitates a person's coping, social support, and
29 identity exploration and development, including sexual
30 orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful
31 conduct or unsafe sexual practices, if such counseling is not
32 conducted with the goal of changing the person's sexual
33 orientation or gender identity.

34 (2) (a) A person who is licensed to provide professional
35 counseling, or who performs counseling as part of his or her
36 professional training under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter
37 490, or chapter 491, including, but not limited to, medical
38 practitioners, osteopathic practitioners, psychologists,
39 psychotherapists, social workers, marriage and family
40 therapists, and licensed counselors, may not engage in
41 conversion therapy with a person younger than 18 years of age.

42 (b) A licensed professional as described in paragraph (a)
43 who engages in or attempts to engage in conversion therapy with
44 a person younger than 18 years of age engages in unprofessional
45 conduct and is subject to disciplinary proceedings by the
46 department and the appropriate regulatory board.

47 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.