

By Senator Clemens

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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 a person who is licensed to provide
5 professional counseling or a practitioner who is
6 licensed under provisions regulating the practice of
7 medicine, osteopathic medicine, psychology, clinical
8 social work, marriage and family therapy, or mental
9 health counseling from practicing or performing
10 conversion therapy with an individual who is younger
11 than a specified age; providing that such person or
12 practitioner is subject to specified disciplinary
13 proceedings; providing an effective date.

14
15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

19 456.064 Conversion therapy.-

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

27 (a) Provides support to an individual actively undergoing
28 gender transition; or

29 (b) Provides acceptance, support, and understanding of an

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30 individual or facilitates an individual's coping, social
31 support, and identity exploration and development, including
32 sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address
33 unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices; however, the goal
34 of such counseling may not be to change the individual's sexual
35 orientation or gender identity.

36 (2) A person who is licensed to provide professional
37 counseling or who provides counseling as part of his or her
38 professional practice under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter
39 490, or chapter 491, including, but not limited to, a medical
40 practitioner, osteopathic practitioner, psychologist,
41 psychotherapist, social worker, marriage and family therapist,
42 or mental health counselor may not practice or perform
43 conversion therapy with an individual younger than 18 years of
44 age. Any such licensed professional who practices or performs or
45 attempts to practice or perform conversion therapy with an
46 individual younger than 18 years of age engages in
47 unprofessional conduct and is subject to disciplinary
48 proceedings by the department and the appropriate regulatory
49 board.

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