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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to conversion therapy; creating s.

456.064, F.S.; defining the term "conversion therapy";
prohibiting a person who is licensed to provide
professional counseling or a practitioner who is
licensed under provisions regulating the practice of
medicine, osteopathic medicine, psychology, clinical
social work, marriage and family therapy, or mental
health counseling from practicing or performing
conversion therapy with an individual who is younger
than a specified age; providing that such person or
practitioner is subject to specified disciplinary
proceedings under certain circumstances; providing an
effective date.

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

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

456.064 Conversion therapy.-

(1) As used in this section, the term "conversion therapy" means any practice or treatment performed with the goal of changing an individual's sexual orientation, including, but not limited to, efforts to change behavior, gender identity, or gender expression or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic

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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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attraction or feelings toward a person of the same gender. The term does not include professional counseling that provides:

- (a) Support to an individual actively undergoing gender transition; or
- (b) Acceptance, support, and understanding of an individual or facilitates an individual's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices; however, the goal of such counseling is not to change the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.
- (2) A person who is licensed to provide professional counseling or who provides counseling as part of his or her professional practice under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 490, or chapter 491, including, but not limited to, a medical practitioner, osteopathic physician, psychologist, psychotherapist, clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental health counselor, may not practice or perform conversion therapy with an individual younger than 18 years of age. Any such licensed professional who practices or performs or attempts to practice or perform conversion therapy with an individual younger than 18 years of age engages in unprofessional conduct and is subject to disciplinary proceedings by the department and the appropriate board.

 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

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