

By Senator Rodriguez

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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 for an individual who is younger
 11 than a specified age; providing that such licensee or
 12 practitioner is subject to disciplinary proceedings by
 13 the Department of Health and the appropriate board
 14 under certain circumstances; providing an effective
 15 date.

16
 17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18
 19 Section 1. Section 456.064, Florida Statutes, is created to
 20 read:

21 456.064 Conversion therapy.-

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

29 (a) Support to an individual actively undergoing gender

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30 transition; or

31 (b) Acceptance, support, and understanding of an individual
32 or that facilitates an individual's coping, social support, and
33 identity exploration and development, including sexual
34 orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful
35 conduct or unsafe sexual practices, provided that the goal of
36 such support is not to change the individual's sexual
37 orientation or gender identity.

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

51 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.