



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

**Committee Bill No. 6695**

LCO No. 5450



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC HEALTH

Introduced by:  
(PH)

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF YOUTH FROM  
CONVERSION THERAPY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section and  
2 sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this act:

3 (1) "Conversion therapy" means any practice or treatment  
4 administered to a person under eighteen years of age that seeks to  
5 change the person's sexual orientation or gender identity, including,  
6 but not limited to, any effort to change gender expression or to  
7 eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward  
8 persons of the same gender. "Conversion therapy" does not include  
9 counseling intended to (A) assist a person undergoing gender  
10 transition, (B) provide acceptance, support and understanding to the  
11 person, or (C) facilitate the person's coping, social support or identity  
12 exploration and development, including, but not limited to, any  
13 therapeutic intervention that is neutral with regard to sexual  
14 orientation and seeks to prevent or address unlawful conduct or  
15 unsafe sexual practices, provided such counseling does not seek to  
16 change the person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

17 (2) "Health care provider" means a licensed practitioner of the  
18 healing arts, as defined in section 20-1 of the general statutes, an  
19 occupational therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 376a of the general  
20 statutes, an alcohol and drug counselor licensed pursuant to chapter  
21 376b of the general statutes or certified pursuant to section 20-74s of  
22 the general statutes, a registered nurse or advanced practice registered  
23 nurse licensed under chapter 378 of the general statutes, a nurse's aide  
24 registered pursuant to chapter 378a of the general statutes, a behavior  
25 analyst licensed pursuant to chapter 382a of the general statutes, a  
26 psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383 of the general statutes, a  
27 marriage and family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter 383a of the  
28 general statutes, a clinical social worker or master clinical social  
29 worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b of the general statutes, a  
30 professional counselor licensed pursuant to chapter 383c of the general  
31 statutes, a genetic counselor licensed pursuant to chapter 383d of the  
32 general statutes, a pharmacist licensed pursuant to chapter 400j of the  
33 general statutes, a hypnotist registered with the Department of  
34 Consumer Protection pursuant to chapter 400m of the general statutes  
35 or any person licensed, certified or registered under comparable  
36 provisions of law outside of the state but providing professional  
37 services under such license or registration in the state.

38 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) No health care provider  
39 shall engage in conversion therapy.

40 (b) Any conversion therapy practiced by a health care provider shall  
41 be considered unprofessional conduct and shall be grounds for  
42 disciplinary action under section 19a-17 of the general statutes,  
43 including, but not limited to, suspension or revocation of the  
44 professional's license, certification or registration to practice his or her  
45 profession.

46 (c) Nothing in sections 1 to 4, inclusive, of this act shall prevent a  
47 national certifying body that certifies any licensed professional from  
48 acting in response to a complaint that a licensed professional has

49 engaged in conversion therapy.

50 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) It shall be unlawful for any  
51 person engaged in trade or commerce to provide conversion therapy.

52 (b) A violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be considered  
53 an unfair or deceptive trade practice pursuant to section 42-110b of the  
54 general statutes and shall be subject to the same enforcement, liabilities  
55 and penalties as set forth in sections 42-110a to 42-110q, inclusive, of  
56 the general statutes.

57 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No public funds, as defined in  
58 section 9-601, shall be expended for the purpose of (1) practicing  
59 conversion therapy, (2) referring a person to a health care provider for  
60 conversion therapy, (3) referring any individual to any person engaged  
61 in trade or commerce for conversion therapy, (4) health benefits  
62 coverage for conversion therapy, or (5) a grant or contract with any  
63 entity to conduct conversion therapy or refer any person to a health  
64 care provider for conversion therapy or to a person engaged in trade or  
65 commerce to provide conversion therapy.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To protect youth from conversion therapy.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

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