



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6695

January Session, 2017

* _____HB06695PH_____032817_____*

**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 board
25 certified behavior analyst, as defined under chapter 382a of the general
26 statutes, a psychologist licensed pursuant to chapter 383 of the general
27 statutes, a marriage and family therapist licensed pursuant to chapter
28 383a of the general statutes, a clinical social worker or master clinical
29 social worker licensed pursuant to chapter 383b of the general statutes,
30 a professional counselor licensed pursuant to chapter 383c of the
31 general statutes, a genetic counselor licensed pursuant to chapter 383d
32 of the general statutes, a pharmacist licensed pursuant to chapter 400j
33 of the 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, certification 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, 21a-7 or 21a-8 of the general
43 statutes, 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, certified or
48 registered professional from acting in response to a complaint that a
49 licensed, certified or registered professional has engaged in conversion
50 therapy.

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

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

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

In Section 1, "board certified" was inserted before "behavior analyst" and "licensed pursuant to" was replaced with "as defined under" for accuracy and statutory consistency.

PH Joint Favorable Subst.