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H.B. 503
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Lightbody

Emma Carroll, Research Analyst

SUMMARY

- Prohibits specified licensed health professionals from practicing conversion therapy on minors.
- Requires state licensing boards to sanction health professionals who practice conversion therapy on minors.
- Permits health professionals to support minors as they navigate their identities.
- Permits sexual orientation-neutral interventions that address unlawful conduct or unsafe sex practices.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Conversion therapy prohibition

The bill prohibits any licensed health professional, or any person who has applied for health professional licensure, from practicing conversion therapy on minors. Under the bill, conversion therapy is the practice of attempting to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. This practice includes attempting to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attraction towards people of the same gender as well as attempting to change gender expression or behaviors associated with someone's sexual orientation or gender identity.¹

Professions impacted

The bill specifies that the following health care professionals may not practice conversion therapy on minors:

- Advanced practice registered nurses designated as clinical nurse specialists;

¹ R.C. 4743.09(A)(2).

- Physicians;
- Psychologists;
- Counselors;
- Social workers;
- Marriage and family therapists; and
- Chemical dependency counselors.²

Penalties

If a health professional performs conversion therapy on a minor, the bill requires the relevant licensing board to suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew the professional's license or certificate of registration.³

Practices not considered conversion therapy

The bill specifies that some interventions addressing a minor's sexual orientation or gender identity but that do not seek to change the minor's sexual orientation or gender identity would still be permitted. Health professionals may continue to assist patients with voluntary gender transitions; provide acceptance, support, and understanding; and facilitate a patient's coping, social support, or identity exploration and development. Health care professionals also may continue to address unlawful conduct or unsafe sex practices as long as the interventions are sexual orientation-neutral.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-12-20

H0503-I-133/ks

² R.C. 4743.09(A)(3)(b) to (g).

³ R.C. 4723.93, 4731.92, 4732.34, 4743.09(D), 4757.46, and 4758.73.

⁴ R.C. 4743.09(C).