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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 71
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Antonio and Liston

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SUMMARY

- Prohibits specified licensed health professionals from engaging in conversion therapy when treating minors.
- Requires state licensing boards to sanction health professionals who practice conversion therapy on minors.
- Exempts specified conduct that does not seek to change a minor's sexual orientation or gender identity from the bill's prohibition.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Conversion therapy prohibition

The bill prohibits any licensed health professional, or any person who has applied for health professional licensure, from engaging in conversion therapy when providing mental health treatment to minors. Under the bill, conversion therapy is the practice of seeking to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. This includes efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward a person of the same gender.¹

Professions impacted

The bill applies to the following health care professionals:

- Advanced practice registered nurses designated as clinical nurse specialists;
- Physicians;

¹ R.C. 4743.11(A)(2) and (B).

- Psychologists;
- Professional clinical counselors or professional counselors;
- Independent social workers, social workers, and social work assistants;
- Independent marriage and family therapists and marriage and family therapists; and
- Independent chemical dependency counselor-clinical supervisors, independent chemical dependency counselors, chemical dependency counselors II and III, chemical dependency counselor assistants, prevention consultants, prevention specialists, prevention specialist assistants, or registered applicants.²

Penalties

If a health care 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 prohibited

The bill specifies that it does not prohibit 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. 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 intervene to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sex practices as long as the interventions are sexual orientation-neutral.⁴

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-04-25

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² R.C. 4743.11(A)(3).

³ R.C. 4723.95, 4731.45, 4732.34, 4743.11(D), 4757.46, and 4758.73.

⁴ R.C. 4743.11(C).