



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

## Bill Analysis

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### H.B. 247

131st General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps.** Driehaus and Phillips, G. Johnson, Ramos, Antonio, Bishoff, K. Smith, Clyde, Lepore-Hagan, Fedor, Sheehy

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## BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits specified health care professionals from engaging in sexual orientation change efforts when providing mental health treatment to minors.
- Requires professional regulatory boards to impose disciplinary sanctions for violating the prohibition.

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## CONTENT AND OPERATION

### Sexual orientation change efforts

The bill prohibits specified health care professionals and those applying for the authority to practice a specified profession from engaging in sexual orientation change efforts when providing mental health treatment to a minor.<sup>1</sup> "Sexual orientation change efforts" means the practice of seeking to change a person's sexual orientation, including efforts to change behaviors, gender identity, or gender expressions, or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward a person of the same gender.<sup>2</sup>

The health care professions subject to the prohibition are physicians, clinical nurse specialists, psychologists, licensed professional clinical counselors, licensed professional counselors, independent social workers, social workers, social work

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 4743.09(B).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 4743.09(A)(4).

assistants, independent marriage and family therapists, and marriage and family therapists.<sup>3</sup>

The bill specifies that the prohibition does not include any of the following:<sup>4</sup>

--Assisting a patient who seeks to transition, is in the process of transitioning, or has transitioned from one gender to another;

--Providing a patient with acceptance, support, and understanding or facilitating a patient's coping, social support, or identity exploration and development;

--Providing a patient with sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices; or

--Counseling that does not seek to change a patient's sexual orientation.

### **Disciplinary sanctions**

A professional regulatory board that regulates a profession subject to the bill's prohibition must suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew the certification, license, or registration of a health care professional or applicant who violates the bill's prohibition.<sup>5</sup> The boards subject to this requirement are the State Medical Board, Board of Nursing, State Board of Psychology, and Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.<sup>6</sup>

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## **HISTORY**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Introduced	06-08-15

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 4743.09(A)(2).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 4743.09(C).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 4743.09(D).

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 4723.93, 4731.96, 4732.34, and 4757.46.

