



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1210

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0510
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Rosenthal
Sen. Steadman

Date: February 11, 2016
Bill Status: House Public Health Care and
Human Services
Fiscal Analyst: Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

BILL TOPIC: PROHIBIT CONVERSION THERAPY MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase.	
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: Minimal ongoing workload increase.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill prohibits physicians specializing in psychiatry and licensed or registered mental health professionals from engaging in conversion therapy with patients under 18 years of age. The bill defines "conversion therapy" as practices that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attraction to individuals of the same sex. Violations of this prohibition are addressed through the existing disciplinary processes for these regulated professionals.

Certain practices are exempted from the definition of conversion therapy, including psychotherapies that provide acceptance, support, and understanding for the facilitation of an individual's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, or assist a person undergoing gender transition. Sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices are also permitted, so long as they do not seek to change the patient's sexual orientation or gender identity. Lastly, engagement in the practice of religious ministry by a licensed mental health professional is not classified as conversion therapy, so long as the person does not hold himself out as a licensed mental health professional at the time of the religious ministry.

State Expenditures

The bill may increase workload in the Department of Regulatory Agencies beginning in FY 2016-17 for the Colorado Medical Board and the six mental health professional boards to review complaints, conduct investigations, hold hearings, and take disciplinary action against practitioners who engage in conversion therapy with minors. Workload may also increase in the Office of

Administrative Courts in the Department of Personnel and Administration if administrative hearings are required in these cases. Generally, the fiscal note assumes that regulated psychiatrists and mental health professionals will have a high level of compliance and will not engage in prohibited practices. Therefore, any impact to these agencies is assumed to be minimal and no change in appropriations are required.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 10, 2016, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2016, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Information Technology
Personnel

Judicial
Regulatory Agencies

Law