

**First Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 17-0743.01 Kristen Forrestal x4217

HOUSE BILL 17-1156

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Rosenthal,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Fenberg,

House Committees

Public Health Care & Human Services

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A PROHIBITION ON CONVERSION THERAPY BY A LICENSED**
102 **MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill prohibits a licensed physician specializing in psychiatry or a licensed or registered mental health care provider from engaging in conversion therapy with a patient under 18 years of age. A licensee who engages in these efforts is subject to disciplinary action by the appropriate licensing board. "Conversion therapy" means efforts that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation, including efforts to change behaviors

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward individuals of the same sex.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-36-102.5, **amend**
3 the introductory portion; and **add** (5.5) as follows:

4 **12-36-102.5. Definitions.** As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 36,
5 unless the context otherwise requires:

6 (5.5) "CONVERSION THERAPY" MEANS ANY PRACTICE BY A
7 LICENSEE SPECIALIZING IN THE PRACTICE OF PSYCHIATRY THAT SEEKS TO
8 CHANGE AN INDIVIDUAL'S SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY,
9 INCLUDING EFFORTS TO CHANGE BEHAVIORS OR GENDER EXPRESSIONS OR
10 TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE SEXUAL OR ROMANTIC ATTRACTION OR
11 FEELINGS TOWARD INDIVIDUALS OF THE SAME SEX. THE TERM DOES NOT
12 INCLUDE:

13 (a) PSYCHOTHERAPIES THAT PROVIDE ACCEPTANCE, SUPPORT, AND
14 UNDERSTANDING FOR THE FACILITATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S COPING,
15 SOCIAL SUPPORT, AND IDENTITY EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT,
16 INCLUDING SEXUAL ORIENTATION-NEUTRAL INTERVENTIONS TO PREVENT
17 OR ADDRESS UNLAWFUL CONDUCT OR UNSAFE SEXUAL PRACTICES, AS
18 LONG AS THE COUNSELING DOES NOT SEEK TO CHANGE SEXUAL
19 ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY; OR

20 (b) PSYCHOTHERAPIES THAT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO A PERSON
21 UNDERGOING GENDER TRANSITION.

22 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-36-117, **amend**
23 (1) introductory portion; and **add** (1)(nn) as follows:

24 **12-36-117. Unprofessional conduct.** (1) "Unprofessional
25 conduct" as used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 36 means:

1 (nn) ENGAGING IN CONVERSION THERAPY WITH A PATIENT UNDER
2 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

3 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-43-201, **amend**
4 the introductory portion; and **add** (1.6) as follows:

5 **12-43-201. Definitions.** As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 43, unless
6 the context otherwise requires:

7 (1.6) "CONVERSION THERAPY" MEANS ANY PRACTICE BY A
8 LICENSEE OR REGISTRANT THAT SEEKS TO CHANGE AN INDIVIDUAL'S
9 SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY, INCLUDING EFFORTS TO
10 CHANGE BEHAVIORS OR GENDER EXPRESSIONS OR TO ELIMINATE OR
11 REDUCE SEXUAL OR ROMANTIC ATTRACTION OR FEELINGS TOWARD
12 INDIVIDUALS OF THE SAME SEX. THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE:

13 (a) PSYCHOTHERAPIES THAT PROVIDE ACCEPTANCE, SUPPORT, AND
14 UNDERSTANDING FOR THE FACILITATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S COPING,
15 SOCIAL SUPPORT, AND IDENTITY EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT,
16 INCLUDING SEXUAL ORIENTATION-NEUTRAL INTERVENTIONS TO PREVENT
17 OR ADDRESS UNLAWFUL CONDUCT OR UNSAFE SEXUAL PRACTICES, AS
18 LONG AS THE COUNSELING DOES NOT SEEK TO CHANGE SEXUAL
19 ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY; OR

20 (b) PSYCHOTHERAPIES THAT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO A PERSON
21 UNDERGOING GENDER TRANSITION.

22 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 12-43-222, **amend**
23 (1) introductory portion, (1)(w), and (1)(x); and **add** (1)(y) as follows:

24 **12-43-222. Prohibited activities - related provisions.** (1) A
25 person licensed, registered, or certified under this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 43
26 violates this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 43 if the person:

27 (w) Has sold or fraudulently obtained or furnished a license,

1 registration, or certification to practice as a psychologist, social worker,
2 marriage and family therapist, licensed professional counselor,
3 psychotherapist, or addiction counselor or has aided or abetted in such
4 activities; ~~or~~

5 (x) Has failed to respond, in the manner required by the board, to
6 a complaint filed with or by the board against the licensee, registrant, or
7 certificate holder; OR

8 (y) ENGAGES IN CONVERSION THERAPY WITH A PATIENT UNDER
9 EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

10 **SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
11 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
12 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
13 9, 2017, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2017); except that, if a
14 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
15 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
16 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
17 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
18 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
19 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.