



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB17-1156

FISCAL NOTE

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

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0743
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Rosenthal
 Sen. Fenberg

Date: February 15, 2017
Bill Status: House Public Health Care and
 Human Services
Fiscal Analyst: Kerry White (303-866-3469)

BILL TOPIC: PROHIBITS CONVERSION THERAPY MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase.	
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing minimal 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 disciplinary processes for these regulated professionals.

Certain psychotherapies are exempted from the definition of conversion therapy if they provide acceptance, support, and understanding for the facilitation of an individual's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development. 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. Therapies are also allowed to assist a person undergoing gender transition.

State Expenditures

The bill may increase workload in the Department of Regulatory Agencies for the Colorado Medical Board and the state's 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. The fiscal note assumes that no rulemaking is required. 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 for any state agency.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Information Technology
Personnel

Judicial
Regulatory Agencies

Law