

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to conversion therapy; creating s.  
 3           456.064, F.S.; defining the term "conversion therapy";  
 4           prohibiting specified licensees and practitioners from  
 5           practicing or performing conversion therapy on an  
 6           individual who is younger than a specified age;  
 7           providing that such licensee or practitioner is  
 8           subject to disciplinary proceedings by the Department  
 9           of Health and the appropriate board under certain  
 10          circumstances; providing an effective date.

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 12   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 14          Section 1.   Section 456.064, Florida Statutes, is created  
 15          to read:

16               456.064 Conversion therapy.—

17               (1) As used in this section, the term "conversion therapy"  
 18               means any practice or treatment performed on an individual with  
 19               the goal of changing the individual's sexual orientation,  
 20               including, but not limited to, efforts to change behavior,  
 21               gender identity, or gender expression, or efforts to reduce or  
 22               eliminate sexual or romantic attraction or feelings toward an  
 23               individual of the same gender. The term does not include  
 24               professional counseling that provides:

25                   (a) Support to an individual actively undergoing gender

26 transition; or

27 (b) Support that facilitates an individual's coping,  
28 social development, or identity exploration and development,  
29 including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or  
30 address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, provided  
31 that the goal of such support is not to change the individual's  
32 sexual orientation or gender identity.

33 (2) A person who is licensed to provide professional  
34 counseling or who provides counseling as part of his or her  
35 professional practice under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter  
36 490, or chapter 491, including, but not limited to, a medical  
37 practitioner, osteopathic physician, psychologist,  
38 psychotherapist, clinical social worker, marriage and family  
39 therapist, or mental health counselor, may not practice or  
40 perform conversion therapy on an individual younger than 18  
41 years of age. Any such licensed professional who practices or  
42 performs or attempts to practice or perform conversion therapy  
43 on an individual younger than 18 years of age engages in  
44 unprofessional conduct and is subject to disciplinary  
45 proceedings by the department and the appropriate board.

46 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.