

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to gay and transgender panic legal
3 defenses; providing a short title; providing
4 legislative findings; creating s. 900.06, F.S.;
5 providing definitions; prohibiting the use of a
6 nonviolent sexual advance or specified perceptions or
7 beliefs about another person as a defense to a
8 criminal offense, to excuse or justify a person's
9 conduct, or to mitigate the severity of an offense;
10 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.** This act may be cited as the "Gay and
15 Transgender Panic Legal Defenses Prohibition Act."

16 **Section 2.** The Legislature finds that gay and transgender
17 panic legal defenses raised in criminal proceedings characterize
18 sexual orientation and gender expression or gender identity as
19 objectively reasonable excuses for a perpetrator's loss of self-
20 control, and that these defenses thereby illegitimately attempt
21 to mitigate the responsibility of the perpetrator for harm done
22 to lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender persons.

23 **Section 3. Section 900.06, Florida Statutes, is created to**
24 **read:**

25 900.06 Use of gay and transgender panic legal defenses

26 prohibited.—

27 (1) As used in this section, the term:

28 (a) "Gender expression" or "gender identity" means gender-
29 related identity, appearance, or behavior, regardless of whether
30 such gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior is
31 different from that traditionally associated with a person's
32 physiology or assigned sex at birth.

33 (b) "Sexual orientation" means a person's actual or
34 perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, or bisexuality.

35 (2) A nonviolent sexual advance or the perception or
36 belief, even if inaccurate, of the sex, sexual orientation,
37 gender expression, or gender identity of a person may not be
38 used as a defense to a criminal offense, to excuse or to justify
39 the conduct of a person who commits a criminal offense, or to
40 mitigate the severity of a criminal offense during sentencing.

41 **Section 4.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.