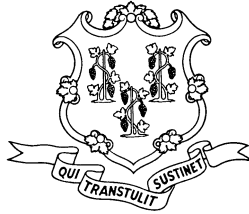


DRAFT



AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF YOUTH FROM CONVERSION THERAPY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section and sections 2 to 4, inclusive, of this act:

(1) “Conversion therapy” means any practices or treatments on a person under 18 years of age 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 attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender. Conversion therapy shall not include counseling that provides assistance to a person undergoing gender transition, or counseling that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person’s coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual-orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, as long as such counseling does not seek to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

(2) “Licensed professional” means a person who is licensed under chapter 369 (“Healing Arts”), chapter 370 (“Medicine and Surgery”), chapter 373 (“Naturopathy”), chapter 376a (“Occupational Therapists”), chapter 376b (“Alcohol and Drug Counselors”), chapter 378 (“Nursing”), chapter 378a (“Nurse’s Aids”), chapter 382a (“Behavior Analysts”), chapter 383 (“Psychologists”), chapter 383a (“Marital and Family Therapists”), chapter 383b (“Clinical Social Workers and Master Social Workers”), chapter 383c (“Professional Counselors”), chapter 383d (“Genetic Counselors”), chapter 400j (“Pharmacy”), chapter 400m (“Hypnotists”), or a person licensed under comparable provisions of law outside the State but providing professional services in the State.

Section 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) A licensed professional shall not engage in conversion therapy.

(b) Any conversion therapy practiced by a licensed professional shall be considered unprofessional conduct and shall subject the licensed professional to discipline by the Department of Public Health up to and including withdrawal and removal of the license. Nothing herein shall prevent a national certifying agency that certifies one of these licensed professionals from acting on a complaint that a licensed professional has engaged in conversion therapy.

Section 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) It shall be unlawful for any person engaged in trade or commerce to provide conversion therapy.

(b) A violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be considered an unfair or deceptive trade practice pursuant to subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the general statutes, and shall be subject to the same enforcement, liabilities, and penalties as set forth in sections 42-110a to 42-110q, inclusive, of the general statutes.

Section 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) No state funds, nor any funds belonging to a municipality, agency, or political subdivision of this state, shall be expended for the purpose of (1) conducting conversion therapy, (2) referring a person to a licensed professional for conversion therapy, (3) referring any individual to any person engaged in trade or commerce for conversion therapy, (4) health benefits coverage for conversion therapy, or (5) a grant or contract with any entity to conduct conversion therapy, to refer any individual to a licensed professional for conversion therapy, or to refer any individual to a person engaged in trade or commerce to provide conversion therapy.