

DRAFT

SUMMARY

Prohibits practice of conversion therapy by certain professionals.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to conversion therapy; amending ORS 675.850; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 675.850 is amended to read:

675.850. (1) A mental health care or social health professional may not practice conversion therapy [*if the recipient of the conversion therapy is under 18 years of age*].

(2) As used in this section:

(a)(A) “Conversion therapy” means providing professional services for the purpose of attempting to change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity, including attempting to change behaviors or expressions of self or to reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender.

(B) “Conversion therapy” does not mean:

(i) Counseling that assists a client who is seeking to undergo a gender transition or who is in the process of undergoing a gender transition; or

(ii) Counseling that provides a client with acceptance, support and understanding, or counseling that facilitates a client’s coping, social support and identity exploration or development, including counseling in the form of sexual orientation-neutral or gender identity-neutral interventions pro-

1 vided for the purpose of preventing or addressing unlawful conduct or unsafe
2 sexual practices, as long as the counseling is not provided for the purpose
3 of attempting to change the client's sexual orientation or gender identity.

4 (b)(A) "Mental health care or social health professional" means:

5 (i) A licensed psychologist as defined in ORS 675.010;

6 (ii) A psychologist associate licensed by the Oregon Board of Psychology
7 before January 1, 2022;

8 (iii) An occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant both as
9 defined in ORS 675.210;

10 (iv) A regulated social worker as defined in ORS 675.510;

11 (v) A licensed marriage and family therapist or licensed professional
12 counselor both as defined in ORS 675.705; and

13 (vi) An individual who provides counseling as part of an educational or
14 training program necessary to practice any of the professions described in
15 sub-subparagraphs (i) to (v) of this subparagraph.

16 (B) "Mental health care or social health professional" includes any indi-
17 vidual not described in this paragraph who is licensed in this state and
18 whose license authorizes the individual to provide mental health care or so-
19 cial health counseling services.

20 (3) Any state board that regulates licensees described in subsection
21 (2)(b)(B) of this section may impose any form of discipline that the board
22 may impose on a licensee under the laws of this state for violating a law of
23 this state or a rule adopted by the board.

24 **SECTION 2. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate pres-**
25 **ervation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is de-**
26 **clared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.**