

**HB 2458 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care**

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**Prepared By:** Brian Nieuburt, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/14

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Removes patient age limitation on prohibition on practice of conversion therapy by mental health care and social health professionals. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

*FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.*

*REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.*

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Conversion therapy is the attempt to change an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression to align with heterosexual or cisgender norms. The practice has been disavowed by many medical and mental health organizations, including the American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

In 2015, the Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 2307 prohibiting the practice of conversion therapy on children under 18 years of age by mental health care and social health professionals, including licensed psychologists and psychologist associates, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants, social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists, and licensed professional counselors.

House Bill 2458 would remove the patient age limitation on the prohibition of practicing conversion therapy by mental health care and social health professionals.