

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 510

By: Senator G. Leding
By: Representative McCullough

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CONVERSION THERAPY FOR MINORS; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO PROHIBIT CONVERSION THERAPY FOR
MINORS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 27, is amended to add an additional subchapter to read as follows:

Subchapter 28 – Prohibition on Conversion Therapy for Minors

20-27-2801. Definitions.

As used in this subchapter:

(1)(A) "Conversion therapy" means any practice or treatment administered to a person that seeks to change the person's sexual orientation or gender identity, including without limitation any efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward persons of the same gender.

(B) "Conversion therapy" does not include counseling that does not seek to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity and:

(i) Assists a person undergoing a gender transition;
(ii) Provides acceptance, support, and understanding to a person; or

(iii) Facilitates a person's coping, social support,



or identity exploration and development, including sexual orientation-neutral intervention to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices;

(2) "Healthcare professional" means a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to administer health care in the ordinary course of the practice of his or her profession; and

(3) "Minor" means a person under eighteen (18) years of age.

20-27-2802. Prohibition on conversion therapy for minors.

(a) A healthcare professional shall not engage in conversion therapy with a minor.

(b) If a healthcare professional engages in conversion therapy with a minor, the healthcare professional is subject to disciplinary action by the licensing, certifying, or authorizing state entity, including without limitation suspension or revocation of his or her license, certificate, or authorization.

20-27-2803. Prohibition on public funds for conversion therapy.

Public funds shall not be used for the purposes of:

(1) Practicing conversion therapy;

(2) Referring a person to a healthcare professional for conversion therapy;

(3) Covering conversion therapy as a part of a health benefit;

or

(4) Granting or contracting with an entity that:

(A) Conducts conversion therapy; or

(B) Refers any person to conversion therapy.