

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to sexual orientation change efforts;  
 3           creating s. 456.064, F.S.; defining the term "sexual  
 4           orientation change effort"; prohibiting persons who  
 5           are licensed to provide professional counseling and  
 6           various practitioners who are licensed under  
 7           provisions regulating the practice of medicine,  
 8           osteopathic medicine, psychology, clinical social  
 9           work, marriage and family therapy, or mental health  
 10          counseling from engaging in sexual orientation change  
 11          efforts on behalf of a person who is younger than a  
 12          specified age; providing an effective date.

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 14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 16           Section 1.   Section 456.064, Florida Statutes, is created  
 17 to read:

18           456.064 Sexual orientation change efforts.-

19           (1) As used in this section, the term "sexual orientation  
 20 change effort" means any practice or treatment performed with  
 21 the goal of changing a person's sexual orientation, including,  
 22 but not limited to, efforts to change behavior, gender identity,  
 23 or gender expression or to reduce or eliminate sexual or  
 24 romantic attraction or feelings toward a person of the same  
 25 gender. The term does not include counseling that:

26           (a) Provides support to a person actively undergoing

27 gender transition; or

28 (b) Provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a  
29 person or facilitates a person's coping, social support, and  
30 identity exploration and development, including sexual  
31 orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful  
32 conduct or unsafe sexual practices, if such counseling is not  
33 conducted with the goal of changing the person's sexual  
34 orientation or gender identity.

35 (2) (a) A person who is licensed to provide professional  
36 counseling, or who performs counseling as part of his or her  
37 professional training under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter  
38 490, or chapter 491, including, but not limited to, medical  
39 practitioners, osteopathic practitioners, psychologists, social  
40 workers, marriage and family therapists, and licensed  
41 counselors, may not engage in sexual orientation change efforts  
42 on behalf of a person younger than 18 years of age.

43 (b) A licensed professional as described in paragraph (a)  
44 who engages in or attempts to engage in sexual orientation  
45 change efforts on behalf of a person younger than 18 years of  
46 age engages in unprofessional conduct and is subject to  
47 disciplinary proceedings by the department and the appropriate  
48 regulatory board.

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.