

SENATE BILL NO. 353—SENATORS PARKS,
SPEARMAN AND ATKINSON

MARCH 16, 2015

JOINT SPONSOR: ASSEMBLYWOMAN SWANK

Referred to Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy

SUMMARY—Enacts provisions relating to sexual orientation conversion therapy. (BDR 54-748)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to mental health professionals; prohibiting certain practitioners from providing sexual orientation conversion therapy to a minor; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law regulates certain mental health professionals including
2 psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed marriage and family therapists, certain
3 registered nurses and certain licensed clinical or independent social workers.
4 (Chapters 630, 632, 633 and 641-641B of NRS) This bill prohibits certain mental
5 health professionals from providing sexual orientation conversion therapy to a
6 person who is under 18 years of age.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 629 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. A psychotherapist shall not provide any sexual orientation*
4 *conversion therapy to a person who is under 18 years of age*
5 *regardless of the willingness of the person or his or her parent or*
6 *legal guardian to authorize such therapy.*

7 *2. As used in this section:*



* S B 3 5 3 R 1 *

1 (a) "Psychotherapist" means:

2 (1) A psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in this State
3 and certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology,
4 Inc. or the American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and
5 Psychiatry of the American Osteopathic Association;

6 (2) A psychologist licensed to practice in this State pursuant
7 to chapter 641 of NRS;

8 (3) A social worker holding a master's degree in social
9 work and licensed in this State as an independent social worker or
10 a clinical social worker pursuant to chapter 641B of NRS;

11 (4) A registered nurse holding a master's degree in the field
12 of psychiatric nursing and licensed to practice professional
13 nursing in this State pursuant to chapter 632 of NRS; or

14 (5) A marriage and family therapist or clinical professional
15 counselor licensed in this State pursuant to chapter 641A of NRS.

16 (b) "Sexual orientation conversion therapy" means any
17 psychotherapy, counseling, hypnosis or other treatment or therapy
18 aimed at altering the sexual or romantic attraction, desire or
19 conduct of a person toward persons of the same sex so that such
20 sexual or romantic attraction, desire or conduct is eliminated,
21 reduced or redirected toward persons of the opposite sex. The term
22 does not include treatment aimed at altering the sexual or
23 romantic attraction, desire or conduct of a person towards
24 children or persons related by consanguinity.

25 **Sec. 2.** (Deleted by amendment.)

26 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective:

27 1. Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any
28 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
29 tasks necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

30 2. On January 1, 2016, for all other purposes.

