

SENATE, No. 2278

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2012

Sponsored by:

Senator RAYMOND J. LESNIAK

District 20 (Union)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Buono

SYNOPSIS

Protects minors by prohibiting counseling attempts to change sexual orientation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/21/2012)

1 AN ACT concerning the protection of minors from counseling
2 attempts to change sexual orientation and supplementing Title 45
3 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. a. A person who is licensed to provide professional
9 counseling under Title 45 of the Revised Statutes, including, but not
10 limited to, a psychiatrist, licensed practicing psychologist, certified
11 social worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed social
12 worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, certified
13 psychoanalyst, or a person who performs counseling as part of the
14 person's professional training for any of these professions, shall not
15 engage in sexual orientation change efforts with a person under 18
16 years of age.

17 b. As used in this section, "sexual orientation change efforts"
18 means the practice of seeking to change a person's sexual
19 persuasion, including, but not limited to, efforts to change behaviors
20 or gender expressions, or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic
21 attractions or feelings toward a person of the same gender; except
22 that sexual orientation change efforts shall not include counseling
23 that:

24 (1) provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person
25 or facilitates a person's coping, social support, and identity
26 exploration and development, including sexual persuasion-neutral
27 interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe
28 sexual practices; and

29 (2) does not seek to change sexual persuasion.

30
31 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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36 This bill prohibits counseling to change the sexual orientation of
37 a minor.

38 Under the provisions of the bill, a person who is licensed to
39 provide professional counseling, including, but not limited to, a
40 psychiatrist, licensed practicing psychologist, certified social
41 worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed social worker,
42 licensed marriage and family therapist, certified psychoanalyst, or a
43 person who performs counseling as part of the person's professional
44 training, is prohibited from engaging in sexual orientation change
45 efforts with a person under 18 years of age.

46 The bill defines "sexual orientation change efforts" as the
47 practice of seeking to change a person's sexual persuasion,
48 including, but not limited to, efforts to change behaviors or gender

1 expressions, or to reduce or eliminate sexual or romantic attractions
2 or feelings toward a person of the same gender. The term, however,
3 does not include counseling that: provides acceptance, support, and
4 understanding of a person or facilitates a person's coping, social
5 support, identity exploration and development, including sexual
6 persuasion-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful
7 conduct or unsafe sexual practices; and does not seek to change
8 sexual persuasion.