

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021  
4

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 510

5 By: Senator G. Leding  
6 By: Representative McCullough  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CONVERSION THERAPY FOR MINORS; AND  
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

14 TO PROHIBIT CONVERSION THERAPY FOR  
15 MINORS.  
16

17  
18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
19

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

22 Subchapter 28 – Prohibition on Conversion Therapy for Minors  
23

24 20-27-2801. Definitions.

25 As used in this subchapter:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

9  
10 20-27-2802. Prohibition on conversion therapy for minors.

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

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

18  
19 20-27-2803. Prohibition on public funds for conversion therapy.

20 Public funds shall not be used for the purposes of:

21 (1) Practicing conversion therapy;

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

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

26 (4) Granting or contracting with an entity that:

27 (A) Conducts conversion therapy; or

28 (B) Refers any person to conversion therapy.

29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36