

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-fourth Legislature First Regular Session - 2017

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 62

BY MCCROSTIE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PROTECTION ACT; AMENDING CHAPTER 24, TITLE 16, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF NEW SECTIONS 16-2435 THROUGH 16-2439, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A SHORT TITLE, TO STATE LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS, TO DEFINE CONVERSION THERAPY, TO PROVIDE FOR VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT FOR CERTAIN PERSONS WHO PERFORM CONVERSION THERAPY AND TO PROHIBIT STATE FUNDING FOR CONVERSION THERAPY; AND PROVIDING SEVERABILITY.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 24, Title 16, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 16-2435, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

16-2435. SHORT TITLE. Sections 16-2435 through 16-2439, Idaho Code, shall be known and may be cited as the "Youth Mental Health Protection Act."

SECTION 2. That Chapter 24, Title 16, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 16-2436, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

16-2436. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds and declares that:

(1) Contemporary science recognizes that being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender is part of the natural spectrum of human identity and is not a disease, disorder or illness; and

(2) Idaho has a compelling interest in protecting the physical and psychological well-being of minors, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, and in protecting its minors against exposure to serious harms caused by conversion therapy.

SECTION 3. That Chapter 24, Title 16, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 16-2437, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

16-2437. CONVERSION THERAPY DEFINED. As used in this act, "conversion therapy" means any practices or treatments that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender. Conversion therapy does not include counseling that provides assistance to a person undergoing gender transition, or counseling that provides acceptance, support and understanding of a person or facilitates a person's coping, social support and identity exploration and development, including sexual-orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe

1 sexual practices, as long as such counseling does not seek to change an indi-
2 vidual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

3 SECTION 4. That Chapter 24, Title 16, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
4 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
5 ignated as Section 16-2438, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

6 16-2438. VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT. (1) A person who is licensed to
7 provide professional counseling under title 54, Idaho Code, including, but
8 not limited to, a psychiatrist, licensed practicing psychologist, certified
9 social worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed social worker, li-
10 censed marriage and family therapist, certified psychoanalyst or a person
11 who performs counseling as part of the person's professional training for
12 any of these professions, shall not engage in conversion therapy with a per-
13 son under eighteen (18) years of age or a vulnerable adult, as defined in sec-
14 tion 18-1505, Idaho Code.

15 (2) Any conversion therapy practiced by a licensed professional, as de-
16 scribed in subsection (1) of this section, on a patient under eighteen (18)
17 years of age or a vulnerable adult shall be considered unprofessional con-
18 duct and shall subject the licensed professional to discipline by the rele-
19 vant licensing entity.

20 (3) The Idaho department of health and welfare shall have concurrent
21 authority to initiate proceedings for violations of this section. The de-
22 partment shall promulgate rules in accordance with the provisions of this
23 section.

24 SECTION 5. That Chapter 24, Title 16, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
25 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
26 ignated as Section 16-2439, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

27 16-2439. PROHIBITION ON STATE FUNDING FOR CONVERSION THERAPY. No
28 state funds, nor any funds belonging to a municipality, agency or political
29 subdivision of this state, shall be expended for the purpose of conducting
30 conversion therapy, referring a person for conversion therapy, health ben-
31 efits coverage for conversion therapy or a grant or contract with any entity
32 that conducts conversion therapy or refers individuals for conversion ther-
33 apy.

34 SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this act are hereby declared
35 to be severable and if any provision of this act or the application of such
36 provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid for any reason,
37 such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of
38 this act.