
HOUSE BILL 1882

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Lias, Jinkins, Habib, Kagi, Upthegrove, Fey, Riccelli, Sells, Ormsby, Fitzgibbon, Orwall, Roberts, Moeller, Ryu, and Pedersen

Read first time 02/14/13. Referred to Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to reviewing sexual orientation change efforts for
2 children; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; and providing an
3 expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department shall establish a work group to review and make
8 recommendations on the practice of sexual orientation change efforts on
9 persons under eighteen years of age in Washington.

10 (2) The work group may include no more than fifteen members
11 representing various mental health providers. The department shall
12 make reasonable efforts to recruit a practitioner of sexual orientation
13 change efforts to serve on the work group. The work group membership
14 must include:

15 (a) One member who is a licensed mental health counselor under
16 chapter 18.225 RCW;

17 (b) One member who is a licensed marriage and family therapist
18 under chapter 18.225 RCW;

1 (c) One member who is a fully licensed independent clinical social
2 worker under chapter 18.225 RCW;

3 (d) One member who is a fully licensed advanced social worker under
4 chapter 18.225 RCW;

5 (e) One member of the examining board of psychology who is a
6 psychologist licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW;

7 (f) One physician licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW who specializes
8 in the practice of psychiatry;

9 (g) One osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW who
10 specializes in the practice of psychiatry;

11 (h) One member of the faith community who is also a licensed mental
12 health professional; and

13 (i) One member of the public.

14 (3) The work group shall:

15 (a) Evaluate research relating to the practice of sexual
16 orientation change efforts on persons who are less than eighteen years
17 of age. The work group shall base its research upon sources that are
18 peer-reviewed journals as well as other research that it determines is
19 highly reliable, including research provided by the Washington state
20 institute for public policy as provided in subsection (4) of this
21 section;

22 (b) Identify the potential harms to clients who are persons less
23 than eighteen years of age that may occur through the practice of
24 sexual orientation change efforts both by licensed mental health
25 providers and by unlicensed practitioners of sexual orientation change
26 efforts; and

27 (c) Develop recommendations for approaches to protect clients who
28 are persons less than eighteen years of age from potential harm related
29 to receiving sexual orientation change efforts. The recommendations
30 must consider approaches to protect clients both for licensed mental
31 health providers and unlicensed practitioners of sexual orientation
32 change efforts. The work group shall consider specific client
33 protection standards for the provision of sexual orientation change
34 efforts to clients who are persons less than eighteen years of age,
35 including the use of disclosure statements for clients receiving sexual
36 orientation change efforts and the prohibition of the practice.

37 (4) The department of health shall contract with the Washington
38 state institute of public policy to conduct a review of the research

1 related to sexual orientation change efforts and the potential harm
2 that it poses to clients less than eighteen years of age to inform the
3 efforts to the work group.

4 (5) The work group shall hold one public meeting on each side of
5 the Cascade crest. The public meetings may be held either in person or
6 through an electronic connection. The department shall establish an
7 opportunity for individuals to submit confidential comments to the work
8 group either in writing or by electronic means.

9 (6) The work group shall report its findings and recommendations to
10 the governor, the appropriate committees of the legislature, and the
11 disciplining authorities representing mental health providers by
12 December 15, 2013.

13 (7) For the purposes of this section:

14 (a) "Mental health providers" means marriage and family therapists
15 licensed under chapter 18.225 RCW, mental health counselors licensed
16 under chapter 18.225 RCW, physicians licensed under chapter 18.71 RCW
17 who specialize in the practice of psychiatry, osteopathic physicians
18 licensed under chapter 18.57 RCW who specialize in the practice of
19 psychiatry, psychologists licensed under chapter 18.83 RCW, and
20 independent clinical and advanced social workers licensed under chapter
21 18.225 RCW.

22 (b)(i) "Sexual orientation change efforts" means a regime practiced
23 by mental health providers that seeks to change an individual's sexual
24 orientation. The term includes efforts to change behaviors or gender
25 expressions, or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions
26 or feelings toward individuals of the same sex. The term includes, but
27 is not limited to, practices commonly referred to as "reparative
28 therapy" or "conversion therapy."

29 (ii) The term does not include psychotherapies that (A) provide
30 acceptance, support, and understanding of clients or the facilitation
31 of clients' coping, social support, and identity exploration and
32 development, including sexual orientation-neutral interventions to
33 prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices; and (B)
34 do not seek to change sexual orientation.

35 (8) This section expires January 1, 2014.

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