

By: Israel

H.B. No. 517

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to unprofessional conduct by mental health providers who  
3 attempt to change the sexual orientation of a child; providing  
4 penalties.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 105, Occupations Code, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 CHAPTER 105. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BY CERTAIN PROVIDERS [~~HEALTH~~  
9 ~~CARE PROVIDER~~]

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 105, Occupations Code, is amended by  
11 designating Sections 105.001 and 105.002 as Subchapter A and adding  
12 a subchapter heading to read as follows:

13 SUBCHAPTER A. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

14 SECTION 3. Section 105.001, Occupations Code, is amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 Sec. 105.001. DEFINITION. In this subchapter [~~chapter~~],  
17 "health care provider" means a person who furnishes services under  
18 a license, certificate, registration, or other authority issued by  
19 this state or another state to diagnose, prevent, alleviate, or  
20 cure a human illness or injury.

21 SECTION 4. Chapter 105, Occupations Code, is amended by  
22 adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

23 SUBCHAPTER B. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BY MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER

24 Sec. 105.051. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1           (1) "Child" means an individual younger than 18 years  
2 of age.

3           (2) "Gender identity or expression" means a person's  
4 having, or being perceived as having, a gender-related identity,  
5 appearance, expression, or behavior, whether or not that identity,  
6 appearance, expression, or behavior is different from that commonly  
7 associated with the person's assigned sex at birth.

8           (3) "Mental health provider" means:

9                   (A) a behavior analyst licensed under Chapter  
10 506;

11                   (B) a chemical dependency counselor licensed  
12 under Chapter 504;

13                   (C) a licensed professional counselor licensed  
14 under Chapter 503;

15                   (D) a marriage and family therapist licensed  
16 under Chapter 502;

17                   (E) a nurse licensed under Chapter 301;

18                   (F) a physician licensed under Subtitle B;

19                   (G) a psychologist licensed under Chapter 501;

20                   (H) a sex offender treatment provider licensed  
21 under Chapter 110;

22                   (I) a social worker licensed under Chapter 505;

23                   (J) a special officer for offenders with mental  
24 impairments certified under Section 1701.404; or

25                   (K) another person licensed by this state to  
26 provide professional therapy or counseling services.

27           (4) "Sexual orientation" means the actual or perceived

1 status of an individual with respect to the individual's sexuality.

2 Sec. 105.052. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT. (a) A mental health  
3 provider engages in unprofessional conduct if, in the course of  
4 providing services to a child, the mental health provider attempts  
5 to:

6 (1) change the child's sexual orientation, including  
7 by attempting to change the child's behavior or gender identity or  
8 expression; or

9 (2) eliminate or reduce the child's sexual or romantic  
10 attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex.

11 (b) Subsection (a) does not apply to counseling that:

12 (1) provides acceptance, support, and understanding  
13 of a child or facilitates a child's coping, social support, and  
14 identity exploration and development, including sexual  
15 orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful  
16 conduct or unsafe sexual practices, if that counseling does not  
17 seek to change sexual orientation or gender identity or expression;  
18 or

19 (2) provides support to a child undergoing gender  
20 transition in accordance with established standards of care.

21 (c) A mental health provider who commits unprofessional  
22 conduct under Subsection (a) is subject to disciplinary action by  
23 any state regulatory entity with the power to take disciplinary  
24 action against that mental health provider.

25 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.