

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a mental health provider to offer services or counseling based on the provider's sincerely held religious beliefs.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 3, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 113 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 113. UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BY

CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

SUBCHAPTER A. SINCERELY HELD RELIGIOUS BELIEFS OF

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

Sec. 113.001. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "mental health provider" means:

(1) a behavior analyst licensed under Chapter 506;

(2) a chemical dependency counselor licensed under Chapter 504;

(3) a licensed professional counselor licensed under Chapter 503;

(4) a marriage and family therapist licensed under Chapter 502;

(5) a nurse licensed under Chapter 301;

(6) a physician licensed under Subtitle B;

(7) a psychologist licensed under Chapter 501;

(8) a sex offender treatment provider licensed under

1 Chapter 110;

2 (9) a social worker licensed under Chapter 505;

3 (10) a special officer for offenders with mental  
4 impairments certified under Section 1701.404; or

5 (11) another person licensed by this state to provide  
6 professional therapy or counseling services.

7 Sec. 113.002. SINCERELY HELD RELIGIOUS BELIEFS. A mental  
8 health provider is not subject to disciplinary action or civil  
9 liability for providing services or counseling based on the  
10 provider's sincerely held religious beliefs.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.