

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

HOUSE BILL 1598

By: Kern

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to conversion therapy; creating the Freedom to Obtain Conversion Therapy Act; defining certain terms; providing right to obtain certain counseling or conversion therapy; preventing certain infringement by the state; providing certain rights of parents; permitting mental health provider to engage in sexual orientation change efforts with a child; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1925.19 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Freedom to Obtain Conversion Therapy Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1925.20 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in the Freedom to Obtain Conversion Therapy Act:

1. "Mental health provider" means a psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, professional counselor or marital and family

1 therapist, pastor and youth minister, who is licensed by his or her  
2 respective licensing authority; and

3 2. "Sexual orientation change efforts" means any communications  
4 by mental health providers that seek to control or end any unwanted  
5 sexual attraction. This includes efforts to change behaviors or  
6 gender expressions, or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic  
7 attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same sex.

8 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
9 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1925.21 of Title 59, unless  
10 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

11 The people of this state have the right to seek and obtain  
12 counseling or conversion therapy from a mental health provider in  
13 order to control or end any unwanted sexual attraction, and no state  
14 agency shall infringe upon that right. Parents may obtain such  
15 counseling or therapy for their children under eighteen (18) years  
16 of age without interference by the state.

17 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
18 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1925.22 of Title 59, unless  
19 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

20 A mental health provider may engage in sexual orientation change  
21 efforts with a child under eighteen (18) years of age.

22 SECTION 5. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
23 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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