

SENATE BILL No. 172

By Committee on Ways and Means

2-8

1 AN ACT concerning health and healthcare; relating to behavioral and
2 mental health; prohibiting the use of conversion therapy.

3
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) As used in this section, "conversion therapy" means any
6 practice or treatment that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation
7 or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender
8 expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or
9 feelings toward individuals of the same gender. "Conversion therapy" does
10 not include counseling that: Provides assistance to an individual
11 undergoing gender transition; provides acceptance, support and
12 understanding to an individual; or facilitates an individual's coping, social
13 support and identity exploration and development, including sexual-
14 orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or
15 unsafe sexual practices, so long as such counseling does not seek to
16 change the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity.

17 (b) Any physician licensed by the state board of healing arts who
18 practices in the area of psychiatry shall not perform conversion therapy
19 with an individual under 18 years of age. Any practice of conversion
20 therapy by such a physician with an individual under 18 years of age shall
21 constitute unprofessional conduct and be subject to discipline by the state
22 board of healing arts.

23 (c) Any licensee of the behavioral sciences regulatory board shall not
24 practice conversion therapy with an individual under 18 years of age. Any
25 practice of conversion therapy by such a licensee with an individual under
26 18 years of age shall constitute unprofessional conduct and be subject to
27 discipline by the behavioral sciences regulatory board.

28 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
29 publication in the statute book.