

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB262

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Surovell

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Conversion therapy prohibited.

5. **Summary:** Prohibits any health care provider or person who performs counseling as part of his training for any profession licensed by a regulatory board of the Department of Health Professions from engaging in conversion therapy with any person under 18 years of age. The bill defines "conversion therapy" as any practice or treatment that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender. "Conversion therapy" does not include counseling that provides assistance to a person undergoing gender transition, or counseling that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person or facilitates a person's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, including sexual-orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices, as long as such counseling does not seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill provides that no state funds shall be expended for the purpose of conducting conversion therapy, referring a person for conversion therapy, extending health benefits coverage for conversion therapy, or awarding a grant or contract to any entity that conducts conversion therapy or refers individuals for conversion therapy.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **No Fiscal Impact.**

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill would not have a fiscal impact on the Commonwealth.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** None.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** HB427 introduced by Delegate Hope and SB 267 introduced by Senator Dance are companion bills.