

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 24 of Title 54.1 a section numbered  
3 54.1-2409.5, relating to Department of Health Professions; conversion therapy prohibited.

4 [S 245]  
5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

7 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 24 of Title 54.1 a section numbered**  
8 **54.1-2409.5 as follows:**

9 **§ 54.1-2409.5. Conversion therapy prohibited.**

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

18 B. No person licensed pursuant to this subtitle or who performs counseling as part of his training for  
19 any profession licensed pursuant to this subtitle shall engage in conversion therapy with a person under  
20 18 years of age. Any conversion therapy efforts with a person under 18 years of age engaged in by a  
21 provider licensed in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle or who performs counseling as part  
22 of his training for any profession licensed pursuant to this subtitle shall constitute unprofessional  
23 conduct and shall be grounds for disciplinary action by the appropriate health regulatory board within  
24 the Department of Health Professions.

25 **2. That no state funds shall be expended for the purpose of conducting conversion therapy with a**  
26 **person under 18 years of age, referring a person under 18 years of age for conversion therapy, or**  
27 **extending health benefits coverage for conversion therapy with a person under 18 years of age.**