

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.**

ENROLLED

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