

**House Study Bill 698 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE \_\_\_\_\_

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
STATE GOVERNMENT BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON KAUFMANN)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to conversion therapy provided to a minor, and  
2 making penalties applicable.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.192 Conversion therapy —  
2 prohibitions — penalties.

3 1. For the purposes of this section, unless the context  
4 otherwise requires:

5 a. (1) "*Conversion therapy*" means any practice or treatment  
6 that seeks to change the sexual orientation or gender identity  
7 of an individual, including mental health therapy that seeks  
8 to change, eliminate, or reduce behaviors, expressions,  
9 attractions, or feelings related to an individual's sexual  
10 orientation or gender identity.

11 (2) "*Conversion therapy*" does not mean a practice or  
12 treatment that does not seek to change the sexual orientation  
13 or gender identity of an individual, including mental health  
14 therapy that meets any of the following conditions:

15 (a) Is neutral with respect to sexual orientation and gender  
16 identity.

17 (b) Provides assistance to an individual undergoing gender  
18 transition.

19 (c) Provides acceptance, support, and understanding of an  
20 individual.

21 (d) Facilitates an individual's ability to cope, social  
22 support, and identity exploration and development.

23 (e) Addresses unlawful, unsafe, premarital, or extramarital  
24 sexual activities in a manner that is neutral with respect to  
25 sexual orientation.

26 (f) Discusses with an individual the individual's moral or  
27 religious beliefs or practices.

28 b. "*Health care professional*" means an individual who is  
29 licensed under, or an individual who provides mental health  
30 therapy as part of the individual's training for a profession  
31 that is licensed under, chapter 148, chapter 152 or chapter  
32 152E, chapter 154B, chapter 154C, or chapter 154D, and who is  
33 qualified to practice mental health therapy.

34 c. "*Minor*" means an individual who is under the age of  
35 eighteen.



1 and "mental health therapy" for the purposes of the bill.  
2 The bill provides that the prohibition against providing  
3 conversion therapy to a minor shall not be interpreted  
4 to apply to a clergy member or religious counselor who is  
5 acting substantially in a pastoral or religious capacity and  
6 not in the capacity of a health care professional or to a  
7 parent or grandparent of a minor who is also a health care  
8 professional but who is acting substantially in the capacity  
9 of a parent or grandparent and not in the capacity of a health  
10 care professional. A health care professional who provides  
11 conversion therapy to a minor in violation of the bill shall  
12 be subject to disciplinary action by the licensing entity with  
13 professional jurisdiction over the health care professional.