

**Senate File 2257 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2257

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**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to sexual orientation and gender identity  
2 change efforts, and making penalties applicable.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 135.192 Sexual orientation and  
2 gender identity change efforts — prohibitions — penalties.

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

5 a. "Child" means an individual who is under the age of 18.

6 b. "Practitioner" means a physician and surgeon or  
7 osteopathic physician and surgeon licensed under chapter 148  
8 who specializes in the practice of psychiatry; a psychologist  
9 licensed under chapter 154B; a licensed marital and family  
10 therapist or mental health counselor or a temporary licensed  
11 marital and family therapist or mental health counselor as  
12 defined in section 154D.1; a social worker licensed pursuant to  
13 chapter 154C; a licensed school counselor, school psychologist,  
14 or school social worker; an advanced registered nurse  
15 practitioner; a practitioner as defined in section 272.1; a  
16 victim counselor as defined in section 915.20A; a psychiatric  
17 nurse; any other person who provides counseling or mental  
18 health or behavioral health services as a part of the person's  
19 professional training or practice under Iowa law or rule; or  
20 any student, intern, volunteer, or other person assisting  
21 or acting under the direction or guidance of any of these  
22 professionals.

23 c. (1) "*Sexual orientation or gender identity change*  
24 *efforts*" means any practice or treatment by a practitioner  
25 that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or  
26 gender identity, including but not limited to efforts to change  
27 behaviors or gender expressions, or to eliminate or reduce  
28 sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals  
29 of the same gender.

30 (2) "*Sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts*"  
31 does not include any of the following practices, as long as the  
32 practice does not seek to change sexual orientation or gender  
33 identity:

34 (a) Counseling or therapy that provides acceptance,  
35 support, and understanding of the individual or the

1 facilitation of an individual's coping, social support,  
2 and identity exploration and development, including sexual  
3 orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address  
4 unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices.

5 (b) Counseling for an individual seeking to transition from  
6 one gender to another.

7 2. A practitioner shall not engage in sexual orientation or  
8 gender identity change efforts with a child.

9 3. A practitioner who engages in sexual orientation or  
10 gender identity change efforts with a child shall be subject  
11 to disciplinary action by the licensing entity or disciplinary  
12 authority with professional jurisdiction over the practitioner.

13 Sec. 2. SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY CHANGE  
14 EFFORTS — CHILD FOSTER CARE — MANDATORY REPORTERS — RULES.

15 1. For the purposes of this section:

16 a. (1) "Child" means, as applicable, either a person less  
17 than eighteen years of age or a person eighteen or nineteen  
18 years of age who meets any of the following conditions:

19 (a) Is in full-time attendance at an accredited school  
20 pursuing a course of study leading to a high school diploma.

21 (b) Is attending an instructional program leading to a high  
22 school equivalency diploma.

23 (c) Has been identified by the director of special education  
24 of the area education agency as a child requiring special  
25 education as defined in section 256B.2, subsection 1.

26 (2) A person over eighteen years of age who has received a  
27 high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma is not  
28 a "child" within the definition in this paragraph "a".

29 b. "Mental injury" means the same as defined in section  
30 232.2.

31 c. "Sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts"  
32 means the same as defined in section 135.192.

33 2. The department of human services shall adopt rules  
34 pursuant to chapter 17A relating to all of the following:

35 a. To prohibit, as a condition of licensure, an agency or

1 individual licensed pursuant to chapter 237 to provide child  
2 foster care from participating in sexual orientation or gender  
3 identity change efforts with a child for whom the licensed  
4 agency or individual is providing child foster care.

5 b. To identify research-based instruction that supports  
6 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth,  
7 including linguistic tools such as the correct use of pronouns  
8 and names, for incorporation into necessary training for  
9 department staff and for agencies or individuals licensed  
10 pursuant to chapter 237 to provide child foster care.

11 c. To provide guidance to a mandatory reporter, as  
12 enumerated in section 232.69, subsection 1, in associating  
13 sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts with a  
14 child with mental injury constituting child abuse pursuant to  
15 section 232.68, subsection 2.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 This bill prohibits practitioners from engaging in sexual  
20 orientation or gender identity change efforts with children  
21 (individuals under 18 years of age). The bill provides  
22 that a practitioner who engages in sexual orientation or  
23 gender identity change efforts with a child is subject to  
24 disciplinary action by the entity or disciplinary authority  
25 with professional jurisdiction over the practitioner.

26 The bill also requires the department of human services  
27 (DHS) to adopt administrative rules to prohibit, as a condition  
28 of licensure, an agency or individual licensed to provide  
29 child foster care from participating in sexual orientation  
30 or gender identity change efforts with a child for whom the  
31 licensed agency or individual is providing child foster care;  
32 to identify research-based instruction that supports lesbian,  
33 gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth, including  
34 linguistic tools such as the correct use of pronouns and names,  
35 for incorporation into necessary training for DHS staff and for

1 agencies or individuals licensed to provide child foster care;  
2 and to provide guidance to a mandatory reporter in associating  
3 sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts with a  
4 child with mental injury constituting child abuse.

5 The bill provides definitions for "child", "mental injury",  
6 "practitioner", and "sexual orientation or gender identity  
7 change efforts" for the purposes of the bill.