

## Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note



# STATE FISCAL IMPACT

<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 15-0396	<b>Date:</b> February 19, 2015
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Rosenthal Sen. Steadman	<b>Bill Status:</b> House Public Health Care and Human Services
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Bill Zepernick (303-866-4777)

**BILL TOPIC:** PROHIBIT CONVERSION THERAPY

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase.	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill prohibits physicians specializing in psychiatry and licensed or registered mental health professionals from engaging in conversion therapy with patients under 18 years of age. The bill defines "conversion therapy" as practices that seek 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 attraction to individuals of the same sex. Violations of this prohibition are addressed through the disciplinary processes for these regulated professionals.

Certain psychotherapies are exempted from the definition of conversion therapy if they provide acceptance, support, and understanding for the facilitation of an individual's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development. Sexual orientation-neutral interventions to prevent or address unlawful conduct or unsafe sexual practices are also permitted, so long as they do not seek to change the patient's sexual orientation or gender identity. Therapies are also allowed to assist a person undergoing gender transition.

**State Expenditures**

The bill may increase workload in the Department of Regulatory Agencies for the Colorado Medical Board and the six mental health professional boards to review complaints, conduct investigations, hold hearings, and take disciplinary action against practitioners who engage in conversion therapy with minors. Workload may also increase in the Office of Administrative Courts in the Department of Personnel and Administration if administrative hearings are required in these cases. Generally, the fiscal note assumes that regulated psychiatrists and mental health professionals will have a high level of compliance and will not engage in prohibited practices. Therefore, any impact to these agencies is assumed to be minimal and no change in appropriations are required.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 5, 2015, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 6, 2015, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Regulatory Agencies  
Law

Personnel and Administration  
Judicial