

SB 55 (2025)

Protecting Minors from Gender Mutilation

The SAFE Act

**DFPC ACTION
POSITION
SUPPORT**

WHAT THE BILL DOES

SB 55, the Delaware Save Adolescents From Experimentation Act, would have protected minors from genital mutilation and other covered gender-transition procedures. It would have barred public funding and prohibited Delaware health plans from covering or reimbursing those procedures. Performing a covered procedure or referring a minor for one would have constituted unprofessional conduct subject to licensing discipline. The bill also established civil remedies and extended the period for bringing a claim after adulthood.

APPLICATION We support protecting children from irreversible interventions and allowing time for emotional and psychological development. Concerns about lasting physical effects and long-term safety warrant strong safeguards. Male and female are God-created realities, and compassionate care for children does not require rejecting their biological sex.

OUTCOME Did not advance from the Senate Health & Social Services Committee. No House or Senate floor vote.

PRIMARY SPONSOR	Sen. Richardson
ADDITIONAL	Rep. Hilovsky
CO-SPONSORS	Sens. Hocker, Lawson, Wilson; Reps. Collins, Gray, Morris, Shupe, Yearick

HEARING NOTES

- Sen. Pinkney discussed information from Delaware physicians about gender-transition procedures in the state. A 2017 article described Medicaid coverage for hormone treatment for DeShanna Neal's child; it did not establish that surgery had occurred.
- Sen. Townsend argued against legislative interference in the doctor-patient relationship. In 2017, he co-sponsored SB 65, which prohibited covered licensed professionals from providing conversion therapy to minors.

ROLL CALL

No House or Senate floor vote.

SOURCES [Bill and status](#) • [2017 article](#) • [SB 65 sponsorship](#)