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 gender-transition procedures. It would have barred public funding and prohibited Delaware health plans from covering or reimbursing those procedures. Performing a gender-transition 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 made before they have fully developed emotionally, physically and psychologically. There are many documented concerns about lasting physical effects and long-term safety issues that 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. This contrasted with his position in 2017 on SB 65, a bill he co-sponsored, 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