

SB 65 (2017–2018)

Conversion Therapy

**DFPC ACTION
POSITION
OPPOSE**

WHAT THE BILL DOES

SB 65 made it grounds for professional discipline for covered licensed health-care professionals to provide conversion therapy to a child or refer a child to an out-of-state provider for it. The law defines conversion therapy as practices seeking to change sexual orientation or gender identity. It excludes supportive counseling, identity exploration, and neutral interventions that do not seek such a change, as well as assistance with gender transition. It also prohibits the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families from providing or recommending conversion therapy for children.

APPLICATION We believe families should be able to seek compassionate counseling consistent with their convictions and a Biblical understanding of sex and identity. We oppose government restrictions that narrow those counseling choices. Children deserve care that respects their dignity, protects them from coercion and abuse, and allows them to discuss questions and distress openly.

OUTCOME Passed the Senate on May 17, 2017, and the House on June 7, 2018. Signed into law on July 23, 2018.

PRIMARY SPONSOR	Sen. McDowell
ADDITIONAL	Rep. Heffernan
CO-SPONSORS	Sens. Henry, Sokola, Townsend; Reps. Baumbach, Bentz, Keeley, Kowalko, Lynn, Osienski, Ramone, Schwartzkopf, M. Smith, Viola

ROLL CALL — SELECTED LEGISLATORS

Totals cover the full chamber; the names below are selected legislators from the voting record.

HOUSE • JUNE 7, 2018

24 YES / 14 NO / 3 NOT VOTING

YES: Baumbach; Bennett; Bentz; Bolden; Brady; Heffernan; K. Williams; Kowalko; Longhurst; Lynn; Matthews; Mitchell; Osienski; Paradee; Ramone; Schwartzkopf

NO: Briggs King; Carson; Collins; D. Short; Dukes; Gray; Hensley; Postles; Smyk; Spiegelman; Wilson; Yearick

SENATE • MAY 17, 2017

12 YES / 3 NO / 4 NOT VOTING / 2 ABSENT

YES: Cloutier; Delcollo; Hansen; Lopez; Poore; Sokola; Townsend; Walsh

NO: Hocker; Lawson; Richardson

NOT VOTING: Ennis; Pettyjohn

ABSENT: Bonini

SOURCES [Bill, sponsors, and final action](#) • [Enacted law, Chapter 340](#)