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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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House District 4
Downtown Juneau
Thane, Lemon Creek
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the Mendenhall Valley to
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Sectional Analysis

House Bill 43, Version B

"Conversion Therapy Prohibitions"

HB 43 would prohibit physicians, physician assistants, psychiatrists, psychologists, psychological associates, and other “practitioners of the healing arts” licensed by the state from treating a person under the age of 18 or a vulnerable adult with a therapy or regimen that seeks to change their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Section 1 amends AS 08.01.077 to include treating an individual under the age of 18 or a vulnerable adult with a “conversion therapy” as among the grounds a department or board may consider for disciplining or sanctioning a person licensed, certified, or regulated by that department or board.

Section 2 adds a new subsection under AS 47.17.024 to stipulate that a practitioner of the healing arts licensed under state statute may not treat an individual under the age of 18 with a therapy or other regimen that seeks to change the individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity. Religious healing practitioners are exempted from the prohibition.

Section 2 also specifies certain varieties of counseling to which the prohibition does not apply.

Section 3 of the bill adds a new subsection to AS 47.24 to stipulate that a practitioner of the healing arts licensed under state statute may not treat a vulnerable adult with a therapy or other regimen that seeks to change the individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity. Again, religious healing practitioners are exempted from the prohibition, and the section also specifies certain varieties of counseling to which the subsection does not apply.

Section 4 states that the provisions of the bill apply to conduct that occurs on or after the effective date of the Act.