

COUNTY OF ERIE
 LOCAL LAW NO. ____-2017
 LOCAL LAW INTRO NO. 5-2-2017

Erie County Conversion Therapy Ban
 Sponsored by: Legislator Patrick B. Burke

Section 1: Legislative Intent

The purpose of this law is to ensure the physical and psychological well-being of minors. There is significant evidence that reparative or conversion therapy can cause serious psychological harm to minors who have been exposed to sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts. The practice is opposed by nearly all leading health agencies including: American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, American College of Physicians, American Counseling Association, American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychoanalytic Association, American Psychological Association, American School Counselor Association, American School Health Association, National Association of Social Workers, World Health Organization and the World Psychiatric Association.

Section 2: Definitions

- A. "Conversion therapy" means any formal treatment that aims to change sexual orientation and gender identity of a minor. This includes attempting to change a person's sexual orientation from homosexual to heterosexual as well as from heterosexual to homosexual.
- B. "Minor" means any person less than eighteen (18) years of age.
- C. "Reparative therapy" has the same meaning as conversion therapy.
- D. "Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity Change Efforts" means conversion therapy, reparative therapy, or any other practice that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity. "Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity Change Efforts" do not include psychotherapies that provide acceptance, support, and understanding for clients. And in addition do not prohibit clergy from pastoral counseling, teaching, or relaying of their religion's doctrine.
- E. "Formal Treatment" is defined as a continued effort through a program or through many sessions or meetings to change a minor's sexual identity or orientation.

Section 3: Prohibition

The administering sexual orientation or gender identity change efforts, conversion therapy, or reparative therapy upon a minor within the geographic boundaries of the County of Erie is

prohibited.

Section 4: Penalties

Any person who knowingly violates the provisions of this local law shall be guilty of an unspecified misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$1000 and or up to one year in prison.

Section 5: Effective Date

This local law shall be effective upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Section 6: Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law or the application thereof, to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance, shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional such order of judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this Local Law or its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity, or circumstances directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.