
DIGEST

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HB 993 Original

2022 Regular Session

Edmonds

Abstract: Provides the right of marriage and family therapists to decline counseling services that violate their conscience.

Proposed law provides that a marriage and family therapist shall not be required to participate in any counseling service that violates the therapist's conscience, religious belief, or moral conviction to the extent that patient access to counseling services is not compromised.

Proposed law provides that a marriage and family therapist shall not be held civilly liable or criminally prosecuted for declining any counseling service pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that a marriage and family therapist shall not be dismissed, demoted, discriminated, or prejudiced again for declining any counseling service pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that a marriage and family therapist shall not have his license withheld, denied, revoked, or suspended or disciplined for declining any counseling service pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that a marriage and family therapist shall notify his employer in writing as soon as practicable of any counseling service that violates his conscience.

Proposed law provides that the therapist shall any patient of any counseling service that the therapist would decline to participate in pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that as soon as practicable after a patient requests counseling services that the therapist would decline to participate in pursuant to proposed law, the therapist shall give written notice of the therapist's declination.

Proposed law provides that proposed law does not prevent an employer or patient from inquiring about a reason for the therapist's declination pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that any counseling facility that employs a therapists with known beliefs as provided by proposed law shall ensure that the facility has sufficient staff to provide patient care in the event an employee declines to participate in any counseling service pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides for venue for civil actions brought pursuant to proposed law.

Proposed law provides that a civil action may be brought in accordance with present law Preservation of Religious Freedom Act or the Louisiana Employment Discrimination Law.

Proposed law defines "conscience" and "counseling service".

(Adds R.S. 37:1110.1)