



## New Hampshire Legislature Gender Policy Bills

### 2017:

- HB 478, prohibiting discrimination on basis of gender identity or expression. Tabled on 187-179 vote.
- HB 587, a therapy ban (also known as “conversion therapy” bill). Retained in committee, which has recommended an “inexpedient to legislate” vote for the full House in early 2018.
- SB 224, a therapy ban (“conversion therapy”). Bill was amended in the Senate and was then retained in a House committee, which has recommended an “inexpedient to legislate” vote for the full House in early 2018.

### 2018:

- The House will vote on 2017’s HB 587 and SB 224 (therapy bans) in early 2018.
- HB 1319, prohibiting discrimination on basis of gender identity or expression.
  - *Sponsors: Reps. Edward Butler, Carolyn Gargasz, Charles McMahon, Karel Crawford, John Fothergill, Stephen Darrow, Erin Hennessey, Yvonne Dean-Bailey, Brian Stone, Philip Bean; Sens. Martha Fuller Clark, Jeb Bradley, Jeff Woodburn, John Reagan, Daniel Innis*
- HB 1560, prohibiting Medicaid from paying for sex reassignment drug, hormone therapy, or surgery.
  - *Sponsors: Reps. Dan Itse, Kathleen Souza, J.R. Hoell, Chris True, Greg Hill, Scott Wallace, Mark Pearson*
- HB 1532, prohibiting sex reassignment surgery for minors.
  - *Sponsors: Reps. Dan Itse, J.R. Hoell, Scott Wallace*
- HB 1341, adding sexual reassignment to the definition of child abuse.
  - *Sponsor: Rep. David Testerman*

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Also noted: Effective July 1, 2017, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services unilaterally implemented a rule change allowing Medicaid funds to be used for “gender reassignment.” The rule change went into effect weeks before a public hearing on the proposal.

# What are the potential problems with the therapy ban and gender identity bills?

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## Therapy ban:

- Therapy bans would put state law in the way of the therapist/client relationship.
- If an adolescent client experiencing *unwanted* same-sex attraction were to seek professional counseling to work through that issue, laws like the therapy bans being considered in New Hampshire would restrict the therapist's options.
- Therapy bans put patient confidentiality at risk. Who would review patient records and determine that a therapist has or has not complied with laws like the therapy bans being considered in New Hampshire?
- Minors who want to get counseling for gender transition - changing one's gender identity by means of hormonal and surgical intervention - may currently do so. Why is counseling for **gender transition** accepted under current law, while counseling for changing **sexual orientation** might be made a violation of professional ethics if New Hampshire passes a therapy ban?
- If a teen is sexually attracted to a pre-pubescent child of the same sex, a therapy ban as proposed in SB 224 would prohibit a therapist from working with the teen to reduce or eliminate those feelings.

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## Gender Identity:

- A gender identity bill that supposedly prohibits “discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression” will violate your right to safety and privacy in settings such as locker rooms and restrooms.
- The proposed gender identity bill has no enforceable provision to distinguish (for example) a transgendered woman using a women's locker room, from a man who is cross-dressing for the purpose of predatory behavior in that setting.
- Gender identity policies lead to taxpayer funding of “gender reassignment” surgeries and procedures, including procedures for minors.
- Gender identity policies threaten the conscience rights and livelihoods of health care providers who choose not to participate in “gender reassignment” procedures.
- Gender identity policies lead to men receiving scholarships intended for women, including athletic scholarships.
- Gender identity policies lead to men being allowed into female dormitories all because they say they are women.
- As court cases in other states have shown, gender identity policies erode religious liberty and free speech rights. Business owners and creative professionals who serve clients irrespective of gender, but who choose not to provide services for ceremonies or events that violate their own religious beliefs, are subject to ruinous litigation.