

### **Legislative Summary: Ordinance No. 696-2022**

Ordinance No. 696-2022 enacts new Codified Ordinance Section 667.06, Efforts to Change Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Expression, that prohibits the practice of conversion therapy by a mental health professional on minors. Practices that seek to change or alter a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression have been widely condemned by expert bodies, such as the American Psychological Association, the American Psychiatric Association, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, as harmful to mental health.

Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland Heights, as well as other Ohio and national cities, have enacted similar ordinances. This Council wants to protect the health and well-being of Cleveland residents, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender residents by prohibiting the practice of sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression change efforts on minors. Penalties for a violation of this section are a first degree misdemeanor that carries up to a \$1000 fine and/or up to six months in jail, as applies to other unlawful discriminatory conduct in Chapter 667, and notification to the relevant licensing board upon conviction.

### **Amendments:**

The amendments specify that 1) violation notification to the relevant licensing board will be made by the Director of Public Health; and 2) in addition to police officers, this section may be enforced by the Directors of Public Health and Public Safety, the Commissioners of Health and Health Equity and Social Justice, and their designees.