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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 5516**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING REPRODUCTIVE AND GENDER-AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE SERVICES.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill generally prohibits health care entities from:

1. limiting their health care providers' ability to give patients comprehensive, medically accurate and appropriate information and counseling about reproductive or gender-affirming health care services, or about related community resources, or
2. taking adverse action against their providers (such as firing or demoting them) solely for giving this information or counseling.

For these prohibitions to apply, the providers must be acting (1) in good faith; (2) within their professional scope of practice, education, training, and experience (including their specialty and board certification); and (3) within the accepted standard of care.

Under the bill, health care entities may still perform relevant peer reviews of their health care providers or require them to:

1. give patients the full range of information on available legal options for care as the entity determines, including vaccinations (and the entity can fire or discipline the provider for failing to comply with instructions to give this information);
2. comply with preferred provider network or utilization review requirements for insurance purposes; or
3. meet established health care quality and patient safety guidelines or rules.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

## **LIMITS ON HEALTH CARE ENTITIES**

Subject to the conditions noted above, the bill prohibits health care entities from limiting health care providers' ability to give comprehensive, medically accurate and appropriate information (generally, supported by current scientific evidence, published in peer-reviewed journals, and recognized as accurate, complete, and objective by experts) to patients about:

1. their health status related to reproductive or gender-affirming health care, including diagnosis, prognosis, treatment recommendations and alternatives, and any potential risk to their life or health, and
2. related available and relevant community services and resources and how to access them to obtain the care they choose.

Under the bill, subject to the conditions noted above, health care entities must not fire, demote, suspend, discipline, or take other adverse action against providers solely for giving this information or counseling.

The bill applies to state-credentialed health care providers who are employed by, or acting on behalf of, a health care entity.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Related Bill***

sSB 295, favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee, makes several changes related to reproductive or gender-affirming care, including classifying it under certain conditions as "legally protected health care activity" and making conforming changes to several laws (including to restrictions on health care institutions from disciplining providers for involvement in this care (1) before starting to work for the institution or (2) outside the scope of employment with the institution).

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 22 Nay 10 (03/23/2026)