

HB 916 -- MISSOURI CHILD AND ADOLESCENT PROTECTION ACT

SPONSOR: Buchheit-Courtway

This bill establishes the "Missouri Child and Adolescent Protection (MCAP) Act". This bill provides that a health care provider shall not knowingly provide gender transition procedures to any individual under 18 years of age and shall not refer any individual under 18 years of age to another health care provider for gender transition procedures. Any such provision of or referral for gender transition procedures to an individual under 18 years of age shall constitute unprofessional conduct and subject the health care provider to professional discipline. The provision of gender transition procedures to an individual under 18 years of age shall be considered grounds for a cause of action against the health care provider.

However, the bill makes an exception for the provision of cross-sex hormones to individuals who were prescribed cross-sex hormones before January 1, 2024, to treat an inconsistency between the individual's biological sex and the individual's perceived gender or perceived sex.

An individual under 18 years of age shall have standing as provided under the bill and a claimant for damages under the provisions of this bill may be awarded compensatory damages, injunctive relief, declaratory judgment, punitive damages, and any other appropriate relief. The Attorney General may bring an action to enforce compliance with the provisions of this bill.

Public funds may not be paid or distributed to any individual or entity that provides gender transition procedures to an individual under 18 years of age. MO HealthNet shall not reimburse or provide coverage for gender transition procedures to an individual under 18 years of age.

This bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2024.