

Amendment No. 1 to SB1556

Crowe  
Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 1556\***

**House Bill No. 1840**

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 22, is amended by adding the following new part:

(a) No counselor or therapist providing counseling or therapy services shall be required to counsel or serve a client as to goals, outcomes, or behaviors that conflict with a sincerely held religious belief of the counselor or therapist; provided, that the counselor or therapist coordinates a referral of the client to another counselor or therapist who will provide the counseling or therapy.

(b) The refusal to provide counseling or therapy services as described in subsection (a) shall not be the basis for:

- (1) A civil cause of action; or
- (2) Criminal prosecution.

(c) For purposes of this section, "counseling or therapy services" means assisting an individual, who is seeking or engaged in the counseling relationship in a private practice setting, in a manner intended to facilitate normal human growth and development, using a combination of mental health and human development principles, methods, and techniques, to achieve mental, emotional, physical, social, moral, educational, spiritual, or career development and adjustment throughout the life span.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-22-110(b)(3), is amended by adding the following language after the language "board;":

**Senate Health and Welfare Committee 1**

**Amendment No. 1 to SB1556**

**Crowe**  
**Signature of Sponsor**

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 1556\***

**House Bill No. 1840**

, except that a violation of A.11.b of the 2014 American Counseling Association Code of Ethics, or any similar or successor provision, shall not be grounds upon which the board shall exercise its powers pursuant to subsection (a);

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.