

# Christian Citizenship

## UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY, 2022:

House Bill 5162, scheduled for hearing in the House State Government Administration Committee on Feb. 16, would prohibit Illinois from expending or investing any “public funds in any organization, nonprofit organization, religious organization, or any other entity that performs conversion therapy.” “Conversion therapy” in Illinois is defined as “any practices or treatments that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings towards individuals of the same sex.”

The wording on the face of it is serious enough. Broadly interpreted, it might mean be construed to include a pastor, teacher, counselor, etc. even telling someone – or a whole group such as a class or a congregation – that homosexual behavior is wrong.

Advocates for religious schools are concerned that this bill, if adopted, could affect Invest in Kids and other funding that religious schools receive in Illinois. It could conceivably have an effect on the tax-exempt status of churches and other religious organizations.

This bill bears close scrutiny. It might be disapproved at the committee level, or it could go to the House for a vote.