



Bills2

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waii bills would prohibit public educational institutions from discriminating against students on the basis of sexual orientation. Other bills in Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, New York, and Washington would require schools or school districts to develop anti-harassment programs, policies, and procedures to prevent and stop anti-GLBT student harassment. An additional bill in Texas would prohibit anti-GLBT discrimination against school employees.

Two other measures pending in Massachusetts and New Jersey would require HIV/AIDS prevention to be taught in public school health courses.

Unfavorable

GLBT students and educators are under attack in three states (AZ, MS, NY). The Arizona and New York measures remain alive or active, while the Mississippi bill has been killed.

The Arizona measure would require school districts to deny funding, use of space, and use of employees to student organizations that "promote a sexual orientation."

Other insidious measures are those introduced in New York and Mississippi. In New York, two bills are awaiting further action that would prohibit psychological research or experimentation programs to include materials relating to "sex behavior."

The Mississippi measure, which has been killed, would prohibit the Child Care Facility Licensing Agency from adopting any rule, regulation, or policy that would discriminate against any child care facility or employee thereof on issues of exercise of religious faith. From the bill language, it's not yet clear whether anti-GLBT sentiment could be justified as an exercise of religion.

Domestic partnership

Favorable

Measures to secure domestic partnership benefits have been introduced in seven states (AR, CA, CO, HI, MA, RI, WA). Legislation pending in Hawaii would grant many spousal economic and legal benefits to domestic partners. Measures in California would establish a statewide domestic partnership registry with the secretary of state, and one that would allow the state's Public Employee Retirement System to recognize domestic partners for health insurance and other benefits.

Legislation introduced in Arkansas and California would mandate that insurance companies offer domestic partnership benefits equal to those benefits offered spouses. In Massachusetts and Washington, bills are pending that would grant domestic partnership benefits to public sector employees. A Rhode Island measure would allow anyone to designate a person of choice to make a person's funeral arrange-

Unfavorable

Bills to ban or restrict domestic partnership benefits are being considered in five states (AZ, MS, OR, SC, WA). The Mississippi and Washington bills have died while legislation in the other states remains active. Measures in Arizona, Oregon, and Washington would specifically prohibit the state (and in the case of Arizona, local governments, too) from granting domestic partnership benefits to public employees. Other bills in Mississippi and South Carolina exclude domestic partners from their bills' pro-

HIV/AIDS

Favorable

Favorable measures have been introduced supporting people with HIV/AIDS in 17 states (AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, ID, IL, MA, MN, NV, NJ, NY, RI, TN, TX, VT, WA). These measures range from bills that would create unique identifier codes for reporting and tracking cases of HIV/AIDS to bills creating stronger penalties for disclosure of medical information indicating one's HIV status.

Unfavorable

Unfavorable bills hostile to people with HIV/AIDS have also been introduced (AZ, CO, CT, FL, IL, IN, IA, KS, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, NH, NJ, NY, ND, OR, SC, TN, TX, UT, VT, VA, WA). The major bills include measures to criminalize transmission or possible transmission of HIV, to mandate pre-marital testing for HIV, to mandate testing of pregnant women, and bills mandating testing and possible disclosure of HIV status information for prison inmates.



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