



Equality Texas OPPOSES the following bills:

Religious exemption bills use “sincerely held religious beliefs” or “moral convictions” as legal justification for discriminating. 14 religious exemption bills have been filed.

SB 17 (Perry) / **HB 2827** (P. King): These bills would require that no state agency can adopt a rule or policy, or impose a penalty, that limits a license holder’s ability to discriminate based on their religious beliefs. License holders in Texas include lawyers, healthcare professionals, counselors, and more.

SB 17 has been referred to Senate State Affairs. HB 2827 has been referred to House State Affairs.

SB 1107 (Kolkhorst) / **HB 2892** (Oliverson): These bills would allow healthcare professionals to refuse all but life-saving care based on a “sincerely held religious belief,” without requiring a referral to another provider.

SB 1107 has been referred to Senate Health and Human Services. HB 2892 has not been referred at this time.

SB 85 (Hall): This bill would allow counselors to refuse counseling to patients based on the counselor’s “sincerely held religious belief.”

SB 85 has been referred to Senate State Affairs.

HB 4357 (Sanford): This bill would prohibit disciplinary action towards counselors that provide counseling based on their “sincerely held religious belief,” such as the promotion of conversion therapy.

HB 4357 has not been referred at this time.

SB 1009 (Birdwell) / **HB 2109** (Flynn): These bills would allow faith leaders and judges, including justices, judges, magistrates, and justices of the peace, to refuse to perform marriages based on “sincerely held religious belief.”

SB 1009 has been referred to Senate State Affairs. HB 2109 has been referred to House Juvenile Justice and Family Issues.

SB 1978 (Hughes) / **HB 3172** (Krause): These bills would apply religious exemptions to actions by the Texas Supreme Court, the Texas Court of Criminal

Appeals, a state judicial agency, the State Bar of Texas, or a court in the state, with the exception of governmental employees acting within the scope of their job. *Neither SB 1978 nor HB 3172 have been referred at this time.*

HB 4512 (Cain): This bill would allow any individual to refuse marriage related services to a couple based off of a "sincerely held religious belief."
HB 4512 has not been referred at this time.

HB 1035 (Zedler): This bill, titled the "Free to Believe Act," is a sweeping religious exemption bill allowing individuals to discriminate specifically on the basis of two specific, anti-LGBT religious beliefs: that marriage is between a man and a woman, and that gender refers to "an individual's immutable biological sex as objectively determined by anatomy and genetics at the time of birth." It also reintroduces the "bathroom bill" language from the 85th Legislative Session.
HB 1035 has been referred to House State Affairs.

HB 4497 (Hefner): This bill would prohibit governmental entities (including municipalities, commissions, agencies, courts, etc al) from taking a wide range of actions against people who refuse to provide "marriage-related goods and services."
HB 4497 has not been referred at this time.

Other bad bills this session have the potential to gut existing local nondiscrimination protections (**SB 15**) and complicate custody arrangements of transgender and non-binary children (**SB 2369/HB 1910**).

SB 15 (Creighton): This bill threatens the enforcement of local nondiscrimination ordinances in regards to equal application of employee benefits. Advocates of overturning municipal NDOs in Texas have gone on the record applauding the bill as a way to achieve those goals.
CSSB 15 has been voted out of the Senate State Affairs Committee is is on the Intent Calendar, awaiting floor debate and vote.

SB 2369 (Hughes) / **HB 1910** (Dean): Relating to consideration of a child's gender identity or expression in suits affecting the parent-child relationship and other proceedings involving children.
SB 2369 has not been referred at this time. HB 1910 has been referred to House Juvenile Justice and Family Issues.



EQUALITY TEXAS SUPPORTS THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

Including comprehensive protections for LGBTQ Texans in state nondiscrimination laws.

SB 151 (Rodriguez), **HB 244** (Farrar), **HB 254** (Bernal), **HB 2692** (Reynolds)
SB 151 has been referred to Senate State Affairs. HB 244, HB 254, and HB 2692 have been referred to House State Affairs.

Statewide employment nondiscrimination protections.

SB 1250 (Menendez), **HB 850** (E. Johnson)
SB 1250 has been referred to Senate State Affairs. HB 850 has been referred to House Business and Industry.

Statewide housing nondiscrimination protections.

SB 886 (Menendez), **HB 188** (Bernal)
SB 886 has been referred to Senate State Affairs. HB 188 has been referred to House Urban Affairs.

Statewide public accommodation nondiscrimination protections.

SB 888 (Menendez)
SB 888 has been referred to Senate State Affairs.

Banning the harmful practice of "conversion therapy."

SB 1251 (Menendez), **HB 517** (Israel), **HB 1190** (Hernandez), **HB 4466** (Meza)
SB 1251 has been referred to Senate State Affairs, HB 517 and HB 1190 have been referred to House Public Health, HB 4466 has not been referred at this time.

Updating the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act to include gender identity.

HB 1513 (Coleman)
HB 1513 has been referred to House Criminal Jurisprudence.

'Cleaning up' state statutes to include LGBTQ families.

SB 153 (Rodriguez), **HB 978** (Beckley)
SB 153 has been referred to Senate State Affairs. HB 978 has been referred to House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence.

Repealing the unconstitutional state ban on marriage equality.

SB 114 (Menendez), **SB 152** (Rodriguez), **SJR 9** (Rodriguez), **HB 980** (Beckley), **HB 1512** (Coleman), **HJR 64** (Beckley)

SB 114, SB 152, and SJR 9 have been referred to Senate State Affairs. HB 980 and HB 1512 have been referred to House Criminal Jurisprudence. HJR 64 has been referred to House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence.

Repealing the unconstitutional state ban on sodomy.

HB 84 (Moody)

HB 84 has been referred to House Criminal Jurisprudence.

Facilitating gender marker changes on official documents.

SB 154 (Rodriguez), **HB 2089** (Coleman), **HB 1835** (Rosenthal)

SB 154 has been referred to Senate State Affairs. HB 2089 and HB 1835 have been referred to House Public Health.

Creating a transgender taskforce to study legal and social barriers to equality.

HB 2687 (Reynolds)

HB 2687 has been referred to House State Affairs.

Eliminating "Gay Panic" as a legal defense

SB 887 (Menendez), **HB 3281** (Hinojosa)

SB 887 has been referred to Senate State Affairs. HB 3281 has been referred to House Criminal Jurisprudence.

Piloting programs to target the spread of HIV/AIDS.

SB 2205 (Rodriguez), **HB 75** (Minjarez), **HB 746** (Rose)

HB 75 has been referred to House Public Health. HB 746 has been referred to House County Affairs. SB 2205 has not been referred at this time.

Covering HIV/AIDS treatment under Medicaid

SB 1283 (Miles), **HB 4055** (Wu)

SB 1283 has been referred to Senate Health and Human Services. HB 4055 has not been referred at this time.

Updating adolescent relationship Romero/Juliet laws to include LGBTQ couples

HB 85 (M. Gonzalez)

HB 85 has been referred to House Criminal Jurisprudence.

Providing free IDs for homeless youth

SB 538 (N. Johnson), **HB 623** (Neave)

SB 538 was heard in House Transportation and is currently pending. Equality Texas dropped a card in support. HB 623 has been referred to House Homeland Security.