

Equality Texas **OPPOSED** Legislation

Of the more than 20 anti-LGBTQ bills filed this session, Equality Texas and our partners were able to stop all but one. This session, opponents of equality focused primarily on religious exemptions, which act as a tool to legally sanction discrimination, and on state preemption of local nondiscrimination ordinances, which would eliminate the few legal protections that exist for some LGBTQ Texans. Below are the bills that Equality Texas opposed, and their outcomes:

Companion bills are listed together. If a bill moved past the “referral” stage, the last action is indicated below. If no notes are listed, the bill did not have any movement this session.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS

Several “religious exemption” bills were filed this session. These bills use “sincerely held religious beliefs” or “moral convictions” as legal justification for discrimination.

SB 17 (Perry) / **HB 2827** (P. King): The “license to discriminate” bill

Last Action: SB 17 passed the Senate and was referred to the House State Affairs Committee. It was not granted a hearing in the House.

SB 85 (Hall)

SB 880 (Hughes)

SB 1009 (Birdwell) / **HB 2109** (Flynn)

Last Action: HB 2109 received a hearing in the House Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee; failed on committee vote

SB 1107 (Kolkhorst) / **HB 2892** (Oliverson)

SB 1978 (Hughes) / **HB 3172** (Krause): The “Chick-fil-A” bill

Last Action: Signed into law by the Governor

SB 2325 (Creighton)

HB 1035 (Zedler)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee; left pending

HB 4497 (Hefner)

HB 4357 (Sanford)

HB 4512 (Cain)

Equality Texas **OPPOSED** Legislation

LOCAL CONTROL PREEMPTION

“Preemption” bills threaten cities’ ability to pass and maintain local nondiscrimination ordinances (NDOs) that include protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. In the absence of state and federal protections, local NDOs are the only explicit protections some LGBTQ Texans have against discrimination in employment, housing, and public spaces. Such ordinances are in place in several Texas cities. Legal analysts found that the bills listed here, whose stated goal was to preempt municipal paid sick ordinances, would have put municipal NDOs in jeopardy as well.

CSSB 15 (Creighton)

Last Action: Passed the Senate State Affairs Committee and left on Senate intent calendar

SB 1901 (Fallon)

SB 2013 (Fallon)

SB 2485, 2486, 2487 (Creighton)

Last Action: Passed the Senate, amended favorably in the House State Affairs Committee to protect nondiscrimination ordinances, left pending in the House Calendars Committee

ELIMINATING GENDER IDENTITY FROM CUSTODY CASES

SB 2369 (Hughes) / **HB 1910** (Dean) would have prevented family judges from considering a child’s gender identity in custody cases.

Last Action: HB 1910 received a hearing in the House Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee; left pending

Equality Texas SUPPORTED Legislation

Several bills that would have added real rights and protections for LGBTQ Texans made it to a committee hearing for the first time. Below are the bills Equality Texas supported and their outcomes:

Companion bills are listed together. If a bill moved past the “referral” stage, the last action is indicated below. If no notes are listed, the bill did not have any movement this session.

NONDISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS FOR LGBTQ TEXANS

Several bills were filed to add gender identity and sexual orientation to the list of protected classes in access to employment, housing, and public accommodations.

Comprehensive Protections

SB 151 (Rodríguez)

HB 244 (Farrar)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee; left pending

HB 254 (Bernal)

HB 2692 (Reynolds)

Employment protections

SB 1250 (Menéndez) / **HB 850** (E. Johnson)

Last Action: HB 850 received a hearing in the House Business and Industry Committee; left pending

Housing Protections

SB 886 (Menéndez)

HB 188 (Bernal)

Public Accommodation Protections

SB 888 (Menéndez)

Equality Texas SUPPORTED Legislation

BANNING “CONVERSION THERAPY”

These bills would have categorized the harmful practice of conversion therapy as unprofessional conduct by a mental health provider.

SB 1251 (Menéndez)

HB 517 (Israel)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House Public Health Committee; left pending

HB 1190 (Hernandez)

HB 4466 (Meza)

UPDATING THE JAMES BYRD JR. HATE CRIMES ACT

This bill would have added gender identity as a protected class to statewide hate crimes law.

HB 1513 (Coleman)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

ELIMINATING THE “GAY PANIC” DEFENSE

These bills would have eliminated the “gay panic” as a formal legal defense.

SB 887 (Menéndez)

HB 3281 (Hinojosa)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

TRANSGENDER EQUALITY TASKFORCE

This bill would have created a transgender taskforce to study legal and social barriers to equality.

HB 2687 (Reynolds)

Equality Texas SUPPORTED Legislation

REFLECTING MARRIAGE EQUALITY AND SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS IN STATE LAW

Several bills were filed to update unconstitutional state code to include and recognize LGBTQ families. This category includes bills to eliminate state bans on same-sex relationships and to update family code to include same-sex marriages.

SB 114 (Menéndez)

SB 152 (Rodríguez) / **HB 980** (Beckley)

Last Action: HB 980 received a hearing in the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

SB 153 (Rodríguez) / **HB 978** (Beckley)

Last Action: HB 978 received a hearing in the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

SB 1699 (Whitmire) / **HB 85** (M. González)

Last Action: HB 85 received a hearing in the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

SJR 9 (Rodríguez) / **HJR 64** (Beckley)

Last Action: HJR 64 received a hearing in the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee; left pending

HB 84 (Moody)

HB 1512 (Coleman)

AMENDING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS

These bills would have streamlined and simplified the process of changing gender markers on official documents.

SB 154 (Rodríguez) / **HB 1835** (Rosenthal)

HB 2089 (Coleman)

Last Action: Received a hearing in the House Public Health Committee; left pending