

About the Bill

Summary by Rebecca Faust

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There are four "same-sex marriage" bills in the Washington State Legislature this biennium.

Senate Bill 5793 and House Bill 1963 were both introduced during 2011. While either of them could be moved forward, neither of them is expected to go anywhere.

Senate Bill 6239 and House Bill 2516 are identical bills introduced in 2012 and are the bills currently being pushed by "gay marriage" advocates.

Senate Bill 6239 / House Bill 2516

- Introduced in 2012.
- Senate Bill 6239 is sponsored by Senator Ed Murray.
- House Bill 2516 is sponsored by Representative Jamie Pedersen.
- Amends Washington's marriage statutes to permit "marriage" between members of the same sex.
- Retains domestic partnerships for seniors, but phases out domestic partnerships for younger same-sex couples. Younger same-sex couples in domestic partnerships will be considered "married" after June 30, 2014.

Senate Bill 5793

- Introduced in 2011.
- Sponsored by Senator Ed Murray.
- Lengthy intent section includes inaccurate information regarding the current legal rights of same-sex couples.
- Amends Washington's marriage statutes to permit "marriage" between members of the same sex.
- Does not include any statutory protection for the rights of pastors, churches, or others to refuse to participate in "gay marriages."
- Does not affect the domestic partnership laws.

House Bill 1963

- Introduced in 2011.
- Sponsored by Representative Jim Moeller.
- Amends Washington's marriage statutes to permit "marriage" between members of the same sex.
- Does not include any statutory protection for the rights of pastors, churches, or others to refuse to participate in "gay marriages."
- Maintains domestic partnerships for same-sex couples (in addition to same-sex "marriage").