

## Have Other States Acted?



*Texas' 2015 Pastor Protection Act remains unchallenged.*

In 2015 the Texas legislature passed "The Pastor Protection Act." The Texas act states that "a religious organization, an organization supervised or controlled by or in connection with a religious organization, an individual employed by a religious organization while acting in the scope of that employment, or a clergy or minister" would not be required to marry, celebrate or provide any services, accommodations, facilities, goods or privileges to a person regarding marriage that would cause the organization or individual to "violate a sincerely held religious belief. "It prohibits the state or any individual" from taking any legal action or discriminating against the organization because of the organization's beliefs about marriage between 2 adults.

The Texas law has stood without challenge. Link to statute: [Http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/pdf/SB02065F.pdf#navpanes=0](http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/84R/billtext/pdf/SB02065F.pdf#navpanes=0)

In 2016 Mississippi enacted a much broader law that protects not just religious organizations but also individual citizens, public servants, and businesses, from government penalty for operating publicly according to their belief. The language of the Mississippi statute is also different stating "belief that marriage is reserved for one man and one woman." (HB 372 states "belief about marriage is between 2 adults".)

The Mississippi statute was immediately challenged , but challengers lacked standing before the Court..

Now it's time for the ***Kentucky legislature*** to act!