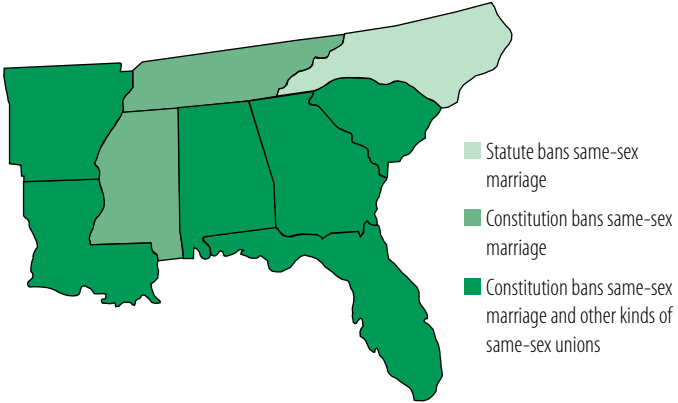


SOUTHERN RESTRICTIONS ON GAY MARRIAGE

North Carolina is currently the only Southern state without a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Bills in both the N.C. Senate and House would amend the state constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage.



SOURCE: TEXTS OF STATE CONSTITUTIONS

DTH/CECE PASCUAL

New bills could define marriage

By Meghan Gilliland  
Staff Writer

North Carolina might be one step closer to becoming the final Southern state to ban same-sex marriage in its constitution if legislation at the General Assembly receives bipartisan support.

Same-sex marriage is currently illegal in N.C., but some lawmakers say activist judges or future legislatures could overturn the law.

Bills in both the N.C. Senate and House of Representatives, known as the Defense of Marriage Acts, propose a constitutional amendment that would permanently define marriage in the state as between one man and one woman.

Rep. Glen Bradley, R-Franklin, is the only Republican in the House opposed to the bill. Bradley said in an e-mail that he objects to the bill as an unwarranted intrusion by the state into a religious matter.

"It is continuing the practice of taking subjects which belong solely under the dominion of God via the authority of the church, and placing them into the hands of an essentially godless state government," he said.

Bradley said he is in the process of polling residents in his district and will vote according to the will of his constituents despite his opposition.

Republican legislators say they hope to pass the bills this session, which would enable voters to approve the amendment with a simple majority on the November 2012 ballot.

The proposed amendment requires a three-fifths vote of approval in both houses to be placed on the ballot, meaning the

measure requires bipartisan support in the House to pass. The bill could pass in the Senate with the exclusive support of Republicans.

The issue has already sparked heated debate among both pro- and anti-amendment groups that hope to persuade legislators in anticipation of the floor votes.

Return America, a Christian organization that opposes same-sex marriage, held a rally last week at the Halifax Mall behind the state legislature in Raleigh in order to demonstrate their support for the amendment.

Ron Baity, president of Return America and pastor at Berean Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, said the state should defend the religious definition of marriage as between a man and a woman.

But Jen Jones, communications director for Equality N.C., said that an amendment would ultimately create a status of second-class citizens in the state.

"As it's titled in the legislature, it's called marriage defense, but we certainly do not believe it's defending anyone's marriage," she said. "We see it as discriminatory legislation."

Jeff DeLuca, co-president of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Straight Alliance at UNC, said he believes students would oppose the amendment if it reached the ballot.

DeLuca said GLBTSA plans to have rallies against the bill in the future to advocate for marriage equality, the group's top priority.

"Gay couples lack very basic benefits that straight couples take for granted," he said.

Contact the State & National Editor at [state@dailytarheel.com](mailto:state@dailytarheel.com).

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Netanyahu willing to part with some Israeli lands

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MCT) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a joint session of Congress he is prepared to make "painful compromises" for peace but he offered few of the concessions that President Barack Obama has sought to revive moribund Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Ending a tumultuous five-day visit to Washington, Netanyahu said Tuesday he is willing to give up "parts of the ancestral Jewish homeland" in negotiations to create a separate Palestinian state. But he outlined requirements that varied only slightly from his previous views, and he did not address many specific Palestinian demands.

Obama to visit Missouri after storm kills 116

LONDON (MCT) — President Obama on Tuesday morning expressed his sorrow about the tornado damage in Missouri, Minnesota and around the Midwest, calling the devastation "incomparable" and promising a full federal response to help in the recovery.

Obama has already dispatched federal officials to the region to survey the damage and talk with local officials, and he said he will visit Missouri personally Sunday.

He pledged to sustain the recovery efforts "after the news cameras leave."

Sunday's storm gouged a six-mile-long swath roughly half a mile wide through Joplin, Mo. At least 116 people died.

Mubarak to stand trial ahead of more protests in Egypt

CAIRO (MCT) — Former President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt will stand trial on charges of conspiring in the shootings deaths of protesters during the uprising that led to his ouster in February, the country's prosecutor-general said Tuesday, an announcement that appeared to be intended to appease families of the victims and protesters gearing up for major demonstrations in the capital Friday.

Protesters have demanded in recent weeks that Mubarak stand trial, frustrated that demonstrators have been jailed, tried and sentenced by the interim government's military courts while Mubarak and most of his inner circle have managed to escape punishment.



MCT/DAVID EULITT

» Zack Dunkel of Mid-Land Erector Company starts the clean-up of St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Joplin, Missouri.

All up in your business

Part of a monthly update on local businesses.

Compiled by staff writers Andie Park and Carson Smith.



DTH/ERIN HULL

New butcher also provides groceries

The Meat House, which opened at 1508 E. Franklin St. May 14, offers customers locally-grown fruits and vegetables and bread and wine in addition to its supply of freshly-cut meat.

Store manager Diane Settles said she hopes the shop's location and its use of local goods will attract UNC students.

"We are going to work really hard to get a lot of local products in the next six months," she said. Store employee Kyle Klavon said the store's most popular items have been custom-cut meats, especially steaks.

Customers can expect to pay between \$10 and \$12 per pound for steak and between \$2 and \$5 for a loaf of bread, Klavon said.

Settles said the store's emphasis on providing shoppers with one-on-one help means shoppers can pick up what they need quickly.

"We like to provide our customers with a 10-minute shopping experience where you can get everything for your meal for tonight, tomorrow night, for the weekend, for your beach trip, for tailgating in 10 minutes," she said.



DTH/CARSON SMITH

[B]Ski's celebrates five years of food

Famous for a customizable menu and late-night convenience, [B]Ski's celebrated its fifth anniversary along with the installation of a new soda machine.

Bradley Smith, owner and co-founder of the restaurant, said the store's new fountain — the Coca-Cola Freestyle — offers 125 different flavors with a virtually infinite number of combinations like peach flavored Sprite and cherry-vanilla Coke.

"We tried so hard to get the Coke machine because it is similar to [B]Ski's," he said. "It's new and different with something for everybody."

Since the machine's installation on the restaurant's May 18 anniversary, Smith said more customers have come in.

"The customers were definitely surprised," [B]Ski's employee Hunter Hammonds said. "Some people come in just to look at it."

Although the timing of the machine's installation was coincidental, Smith said he thinks it symbolizes the [B]Ski's way well.

"With its cutting-edge technology, it provides so many options for customers, which is what [B]Ski's is about," he said.



DTH/ERIN HULL

UPS offers carbon shipping option

The UPS store at Carrboro Plaza will now offer a more environmentally-friendly carbon neutral shipping option.

When sending a package, customers can now request to use the new option, which calculates the amount of carbon dioxide used while shipping their package. UPS will then purchase offsets from carbon offset projects, such as the Garcia River Forest Project in Northern California.

"It will allow customers to offset carbon dioxide generation," said store owner Bill Soeters.

The fees are \$0.05 for a ground package, \$0.20 for an air package to \$0.75 for an international package. UPS will match offset purchases up to \$1 million.

In October 2009, UPS was the first small package carrier in the nation to implement the carbon offset program, according to a press release.

Soeters said he also makes other efforts to sustain the environment by carefully choosing fuels to use for its trucks and utilizing computer programs to determine routes and minimize left turns to reduce fuel usage.

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