## States speed bills to ban gay 'marriage'

## Hawaii case spurs pace of legislation

By Cheryl Wetzstein

Homosexual "marriage" issues have continued to roil statehouses this year: Bills outlawing such unions have been signed in two states, have been defeated in three states and are pending in 10 others.

To date, 28 states have outlawed same-sex "marriages," and Iowa is poised to become the 29th. Gov. Terry E. Branstad has a bill on his desk and is expected to sign it.

"We want all 50," says Robert Knight, an analyst with the Family Research Council, one of the groups that is tracking the issue.

Homosexual activists promise a concerted effort to stop the momentum. Activists were successful in blocking bills in Maryland, New Mexico and West Virginia, says Brian Jacobson, an analyst with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, a major advocate of same-sex "marriage."

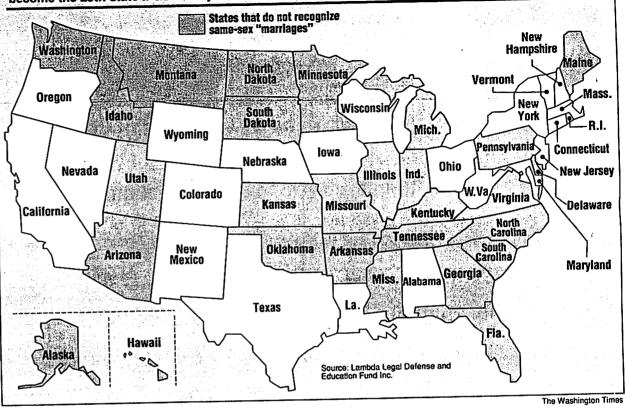
Bills are pending in Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Vermont and Wisconsin.

Same-sex "marriage" is without legal sanction in any state, which makes it odd that states are enacting laws to ban something that isn't allowed.

However, many legal and social observers believe that the Hawaii

NO TO SAME-SEX 'MARRIAGE'

Twenty-eight states do not recognize same-sex "marriages" performed in other states, lowa will become the 29th state if Gov. Terry E. Brandstad signs a bill now on his desk.



Supreme Court is preparing to rule that same-sex "marriage" is a constitutional right in Hawaii in a landmark discrimination suit.

The suit was filed by three homosexual couples who were told by Hawaii officials that they couldn't get a state marriage license because they were of the same sex.

The couples argued that the state constitution forbids discrimination based on sex and therefore the state discriminated against them when it refused to issue them marriage licenses.

If the Hawaii Supreme Court agrees, as expected, it will tell Hawaii officials they cannot deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples, in effect legalizing homosexual "marriage."

Many homosexual couples have pledged to "marry" in Hawaii and

return home, where they would seek recognition of their union.

In 1996, President Clinton signed a law defining marriage in federal law as the "legal union of one man and one woman as husband and wife" and clarified that states cannot be compelled to recognize same-sex "marriages" that may be legal in other states.

But that law, known as the Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, "only protects states that protect themselves," Mr. Knight says. He suggested it might be time to push for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution reserving marriage to opposite-sex couples.

To date, states that will not recognize same-sex "marriages" include Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan,

Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia and Washington.

Hawaii enacted several laws outlawing same-sex "marriage," but those laws were struck down by "judicial tyranny," as Mr. Knight describes it.

Kentucky and Washington enacted their laws against same-sex "marriage" this year. Kentucky Gov. Paul E. Patton signed his law April 2. In February, Washington lawmakers overrode Gov. Gary Locke's veto to enact their law.

In Alaska, lawmakers are acting to get a constitutional question banning same-sex "marriage" on the November ballot. Hawaii voters face a similar constitutional question in November.