

History of the Marriage Protection Amendment (State of North Carolina)

Year	Action in Other States	Action in North Carolina
1996	Hawaii trial court ruled that the state's marriage laws violated the state constitution. This ruling was overturned in 1998 with a state constitutional amendment.	
	Hawaii's state constitutional amendment does not directly ban same-sex marriage but grants legislative authority to ban same-sex marriage	
1998	Alaska superior court judge ruled that Alaska's marriage law violated the state's constitution (this ruling was overturned with a state constitutional amendment the same year)	
2000	Nebraska passed state marriage amendment	
2002	Nevada passed state marriage amendment (voters also favored the amendment in 2000)	
2003	Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled 4 to 3 that denying homosexual couples the right to marry violated the state constitution	
2004	In May, Massachusetts became the first state to issue marriage license to same sex couples 13 states pass state marriage amendments (Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Utah)	State Senator Jim Forrester (R-Gaston) introduced SB1057 – Defense of Marriage in the N.C. Senate with 14 cosponsors in May 2004. State Representatives Tim Moore (R-Cleveland), Jim Crawford (D-Granville), Michael Gorman (R-Craven) and Dewey Hill (D-Columbus) introduced identical bill, HB 1606 in the N.C. House with 63 cosponsors in May 2004.

		SB 1057 and HB 1606 were stalled in committee and never sent to the floor for a vote
2005	Kansas and Texas pass state marriage amendments	Sen. Forrester and Senator Fred Smith (R-Johnson) introduced Defense of Marriage Amendment legislation in the State Senate, as did Representatives Moore, Hill, Crawford, and Jeff Barnhard (R-Cabarrus) in the House. Both bills languished in committee for the remainder of the 2005 session.
2006	8 states pass state marriage amendments (Alabama, Colorado, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin)	Sen. Forrester introduced SB 1228 with 19 cosponsors and Rep. Moore, Hill, Crawford and Bonner Stiller (R-Brunswick) introduced HB 2438 with 53 cosponsors. Neither bill was brought up for a vote in committee.
2007		Defense of Marriage bill again introduced in both House and Senate (HB 493 and SB 13)
2008	Arizona, California and Florida pass state marriage amendments	Defense of marriage will again be introduced in both House and Senate (HB 2803 and SB 1608) In Mason v. Dwinell, NC Court of Appeals granted visitation rights to the estranged same sex partner of a lesbian woman who conceived a child through artificial insemination, rationalizing that "sexual orientation" was irrelevant in the case. Such rationale is similar to California Supreme Court when they said,

“an individual’s capacity to establish a loving long-term committed relationship with another person and *responsibility to care for and raise children does not depend upon the individual’s sexual orientation*” (emphasis mine).

2009	Defense of Marriage bill again introduced in both House and Senate (HB 361 and SB 272)
2010	Defense of Marriage bill again introduced in both House and Senate (HB 2070 and SB 1156)
2011	SB 106- Defense of Marriage introduced in Senate. HB 777 0 Defense of Marriage introduced in House. Later, SB 514 adds clause to amendment proposed by SB 106. SB 514 passes in the General Assembly on September 14 (SL 2011-409)
May 8, 2012 (tentative	NC voters will vote to amend the state constitution during primary elections.