

# State Senator To File Religious Freedom Bill

By [BARBARA HARRINGTON](#)

Posted December 29, 2014

[Like](#) 4 people like this. [Sign Up](#) to see what your friends like.

The bill would protect businesses who refuse services to same-sex couples because of religious beliefs.



Photo: Elle Moxley/StateImpact Indiana

Sen. Scott Schneider plans to author the bill.

State Sen. Scott Schneider, R-Indianapolis, plans to file a Religious Freedom Restoration Act during the upcoming legislative session.

While the details are still being worked out, the [Indy Star reports](#) the bill would allow small businesses to withhold services from same-sex customers.

The bill could have broad implications, according to Micah Clark, director of the American Family Association of Indiana, an organization lobbying for the measure.

It would allow small businesses — such as bakeries, caterers, florists, and wedding chapels — to refuse services to gay couples based on the owner’s religious beliefs, he said. It would also allow adoption agencies to refuse to place children with same-sex couples, he said.

Religious rights advocates have hinted at supporting a measure like Schneider’s [since same-sex marriage was legalized earlier this year](#). Legal experts say, however, that, when it comes to the law, businesses can already refuse services to same-sex couples because there isn’t a federal or state law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Schneider released a statement about the proposed legislation Monday:

The recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Hobby Lobby case was based on the federal Religious Freedom

Support For Indiana Public Media Comes From

**Smithville COMMUNICATIONS**

**Internet**  
HIGH-SPEED FIBER • VDSL

**TV**  
PREMIUM CHANNEL PACKAGES  
HIGH DEFINITION TV • WHOLE HOME HD DVR

**Voice**  
CLEAR SOUND • CALL NATIONWIDE

- Triple Play bundles that work for you -

SMITHVILLE.NET • (800) 742-4084

[Become an Indiana Public Media supporter »](#)

## Local News Headlines

Delivered free to your inbox, every weekday.

**SUBSCRIBE NOW »**



## Search News



## Stay Connected



## Follow us on Twitter

Alex Dierckman  
[@alexdierckman](#)

Alexander McCall  
[@awmccall](#)

Barbara Harrington  
[@BabsofBtown](#)

Brandon Smith  
[@brandonjsmith5](#)

Restoration Act that was passed unanimously by Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton in 1993. In reviewing that court ruling, it became clear that Indiana’s laws were not reflective of federal law. This bill, which I plan to author this session, would match federal law in the state of Indiana. The language of the measure is still being finalized.

Schneider’s press secretary says he plans to file the bill within the next week.



Barbara Harrington is a reporter for WTIU and WFIU news. Before coming to Bloomington, she worked as a reporter at WNDU in South Bend, where she received several AP awards for her coverage of breaking news and local politics. You can follow her on Twitter @BabsOfBtown.











[View all posts by this author »](#)

### Tags

[gay marriage](#), [Indiana Legislature](#)

### Related Posts (Automatically Generated)

- [Another Lawsuit Filed For Right To Same-Sex Marriage](#)
- [How The Top Issues Fared In The 2014 Legislative Session](#)
- [Attorneys General Take Different Stances On Gay Marriage](#)
- [Same-Sex Marriage Fight Dominated 2014 Legislative Session](#)
- [Law Extends Financial Support For Veterans](#)

-  Casey Kuhn  
[@caseyatthedesk](#)
-  Claire McInerney  
[@ClaireMcInerney](#)
-  Drew Daudelin  
[@drewdaudelin](#)
-  Gretchen Frazee  
[@gretchenfrazee](#)
-  Joe Hren  
[@Joe\\_Hren](#)
-  Rachel Morello  
[@morellomedia](#)
-  Sara Wittmeyer  
[@NewsSara](#)
-  Sarah Fentem  
[@petit\\_smudge](#)
-  Taylor Killough  
[@taykillo](#)
-  Will Healey  
[@wfhealey](#)

### Recent Politics Stories

- [The Race To Save Peter Kassig](#)
- [Indiana First Lady On A Mike Pence Presidential Run](#)
- [Court Upholds Half Of Charlie White’s Voter Fraud Conviction](#)
- [Pence Remains Against Expanding Indiana’s Gaming Industry](#)
- [Indy Soccer Team Continues Push For New Stadium](#)

[Politics Archives »](#)

### Recent Videos

-  
-  Video: Watch “Indiana Newscast” December 
-  [Sexual Assault Advocates Say Indiana Lacks Resources](#) 
- 