

Indiana, Georgia to Consider RFRA Bills in New Year

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Written by Don Byrd

As I wrote in my 2014 religious liberty year in review, the issue of religious accommodation was a central church-state theme throughout the year's headlines. Several states responded to new questions of religious accommodation with legislative proposals mirroring (to varying degrees) the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA).

News stories during the last week indicate this trend may continue in 2015.

In Georgia, a RFRA effort that failed last year is being revived. The Marietta Daily Journal [reports](#) that Representative Sam Teasley plans to reintroduce the measure in the new legislative session. Last year, the Baptist Joint Committee urged the state's lawmakers to reject the bill because of its significant departure from its federal counterpart.

In Indiana, lawmakers are preparing to debate a state RFRA there as well. Associated Press [reports](#) the "bill's precise wording is still being fine-tuned."

Many states have enacted RFRA laws in the last several years. 2015 could be the year many others follow suit. But will these states stray from the careful balance achieved in the federal RFRA law? Stay tuned.



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Did You Know?

Founded in 1936, the BJC is the only faith-based agency devoted solely to religious liberty and the separation of church and state. Supported by 15 Baptist bodies, the BJC protects the free exercise of religion and defends against its establishment by government.

Working With Others

A proven bridge-builder, the BJC works with a wide range of religious and nonreligious groups in education and advocacy efforts. Since colonial times, Baptists have worked in alliance with other believers and nonbelievers alike when we find common cause.

Contact Us

Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty
200 Maryland Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20002
bjc@BJCOnline.org
Telephone: 202-544-4226
Fax: 202-544-2094

