



Search

Go

Web 365Gay

[▶ News](#) | [▶ Entertainment](#) | [▶ Lifestyle](#) | [▶ Opinion](#) | [▶ Sports](#) | [▶ Logo](#) | [| Make Us Your Home Page](#) | [| Daily Email Updates](#) | [| Bookmark Us](#) | [| RSS Feed](#)
[Week In Review](#) | [| Columnists](#) | [| Your Weather](#) | [| LGBT History](#)



News

[Today's Top Stories](#) | [Print Page](#) | [Email page](#)

Pennsylvania Court Tosses Gay Hate Law

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

Posted: November 16, 2007 - 5:00 pm ET

(Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell has urged the legislature to immediately approve "appropriate legislation" reinstating the state's hate crime protections for gays after the Commonwealth Court in a split decision ruled the measure illegal on a technicality.

In a 4-1 ruling the court said that the law, passed in 2002, was invalid because it had been tacked onto another nonrelated bill.

"It's important to note that the Commonwealth Court's decision was based on a procedural issue and not on the substance of the amendment," Rendell said. "It's also important to note that this legal challenge was mounted by individuals who themselves may benefit from the law's protections for religious minorities."

The challenge to the law had come from a conservative Christian group, Repent America.

In 2004, 11 members of the organization were arrested during a protest at the city's gay pride celebration.

When the members of Repent America showed up at the pride event police allowed them to demonstrate at the edge of an area where OutFest was being held.

But when the demonstrators allegedly began using a bullhorn yelling Biblical passages to drown out the events on stage pride organizers complained to police.

When the protestors refused to leave point police intervened and arrested the demonstrators. The charges were later thrown out of court.

Repent America sued claiming the hate law violated the civil rights of its members.

The hate bill had been passed with bipartisan support and Gov. Rendell called on lawmakers to act quickly to pass legislation that would be acceptable to the court.

Meanwhile the Pennsylvania attorney general's office is studying the court's ruling. It has 30 days to decide whether to appeal to the state Supreme Court.

©365Gay.com 2007



Put 365gay.com headlines on your site/blog:

365gay Headlines

- ▶ Clinton Accuses Obama Of Flip Flopping
- ▶ Romney Wins Wyoming Caucuses
- ▶ Fox's O'Reilly Gets Pushy At Obama Event
- ▶ Romney Claims He's Agent Of Change
- ▶ Huckabee Gaffes May Sink Him
- ▶ Growing Number Of Israeli Cities Recognize...
- ▶ Canadian Program To Ship AIDS Drugs Crit...
- ▶ Anti-Gay T-Shirt Ruling To Be Appealed
- ▶ Trial In Gay Producer's Murder Put On Hold

[Click here to configure the size of the widget to fit your site](#)

[Today's Top Stories](#) | [Print Page](#) | [Email page](#)