



**State Sen. Dianne Wilkerson, D-Boston, sponsored a bill to repeal a law confining same-sex marriage only to Massachusetts residents.**

*Advocate*, McCain spokeswoman Jill Hazelbaker said he viewed adoption by same-sex couples as an issue up to individual states.

"McCain could have been clearer in the interview in stating that his position on gay adoption is that it is a state issue, just as he made it clear in the interview that marriage is a state issue. He was not endorsing any federal legislation," Hazelbaker said in a statement.

According to *The Advocate* article, the McCain campaign is slowly moving to more moderate positions to please independent voters.

"Apparently, Sen. McCain didn't get the memo that he doesn't need to keep running to the right to please the Republican base," Democratic strategist Steve McMahon said. "He ran far right to get the nomination, and now his campaign is obviously trying to move John McCain back to the middle."

#### MASSACHUSETTS

##### State Opens Marriages to Nonresidents

The Massachusetts Senate voted July 14 to repeal a 1913 law that prevents Massachusetts from marrying out-of-state couples if their marriages would not be legal in their home states.

The repeal, which passed with no objections on a voice vote, passed the House on July 29. Gov. Deval Patrick, a Democrat and a supporter of same-sex marriage whose 18-year-old daughter publicly came out as a lesbian, said he will sign the repeal.

According to a July 16 Associated Press article, the repeal of the out-of-state marriage ban would come more than four years after Massachusetts became the first state to allow gay men and lesbians to marry. Millions of dollars stand to be gained from the wedding and tourism industry, especially from people who live in New York.

Results of a study commissioned by the state of Massachusetts conclude that in the next three years about 32,200 couples would travel there to get married, creating 330 permanent jobs and adding \$111 million to the economy, not including spending by wedding guests and tourist activities the weddings might generate.

"We now have this added pressure, given what's happened in California, that we really think that it is a good thing that we be prepared to receive the economic benefit," state Sen. Dianne Wilkerson, D-Boston, who sponsored the repeal bill, told the AP.


The law, originally intended to uphold other states' bans on interracial marriage, was invoked in 2004 by anti-gay Gov. Mitt Romney, who said he did not want to make Massachusetts "the Las Vegas of same-sex marriage," according to the AP.

#### OKLAHOMA

##### Homophobic Lawmaker Brings Gun to Work

Anti-gay state Rep. Sally Kern, R-Oklahoma City, froze business July 23 at the Oklahoma Capitol Building for having a loaded semiautomatic handgun in her purse. Oklahoma Highway Patrol spokeswoman Chris West said she was not charged because there did not appear to be any "malicious intent" behind her actions.

Kern gained notoriety for being caught on tape giving a speech full of homophobic inaccuracies about equating gays to "cancer" and "terrorists." The bigoted lawmaker said she had a permit for the gun and carried it long before the anti-gay flap.

West also confirmed that Kern brought the gun into the building in June. 

Compiled by JAYMEE R. CUTI



**Anti-gay state Rep. Sally Kern, R-Oklahoma City, was caught twice at the Oklahoma Capitol Building with a semiautomatic handgun in her purse.**

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