



## New Hampshire and Oregon Pass Partner Bills

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News Briefs

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New Hampshire, under a new Democratic Legislature, has passed its civil union law. The Senate voted for it 14-10 along party lines on April 26. Earlier in the month, the House approved it 243-129. Governor John Lynch, also a Democrat, said he would sign it "as a matter of conscience, fairness, and preventing discrimination."

**"What a difference elections make," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.**

The Right Reverend Gene Robinson, 59, out gay Episcopal bishop of New Hampshire, is going to enter a civil union under the new law with his partner of 18 years, Mark Andrew, 53.

"I think it is a huge leap forward, but it is not full equality," he told the Associated Press.

A more limited domestic partner bill in Oregon that has already passed the House was approved 21-9 by the Senate. Governor Ted Kulongoski, a Democrat, supports it.