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**(Wyo.)- Wyo. House Panel Advances Domestic Partnerships**



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 01/28/2013 03:12 PM

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) - A bill that would allow same-sex couples in Wyoming to create domestic partnerships carrying most of the legal rights of heterosexual marriage has cleared a committee vote and is headed to consideration in the full House.

The same committee voted down another bill Monday that would have expanded Wyoming's marriage statutes to permit same-sex marriages in the state.

Gay rights activists applauded the seven-to-two vote by the House Corporations, Elections and Political Subdivisions Committee advancing the domestic partnership bill.

Many supporters testified that allowing domestic partnerships is necessary for gays and lesbians to make family planning decisions.

Opponents cited religious objections to both bills, saying they believe that gays and lesbians make a choice to live as they do.