

The Little Rock Board of Directors is to consider an ordinance tomorrow (Tues) that would enhance penalties for people convicted of committing hate crimes. The proposal backed by Director Kathy Webb would involve crimes motivated by race, religion or sexual orientation. The Hot Springs City Council is also scheduled to consider a similar proposal tomorrow (Tues). Arkansas is one of only a handful of states to not have a STATE hate crimes law. Over the weekend, Senate President Jim Hendren told Arkansas PBS that needs to change.

News20 0:20 "...type of protections."

But also speaking on the program "Arkansas Week" was Jerry Cox, president of the Family Council, which is a conservative religious group. He argues hate crimes laws are not needed and can be abused.

News21 0:25 "...around the country."

Governor Asa Hutchinson recently said recently that passage of a state hate crimes law is a priority in next year's General Assembly.