

What Causes State Legislators to introduce LGBT Protection Laws: 2010-2015?

Abstract

- With differences in LGBT housing, education and other areas, it is essential to look at the influence of lobbying on introducing state LGBT protection laws
- Comparing lobbying data and the number of bills introduced in states, civil rights lobbying groups had a significant effect on getting bills introduced
- Lobbying can affect the type of bill introduced into state legislatures, despite party control

Introduction

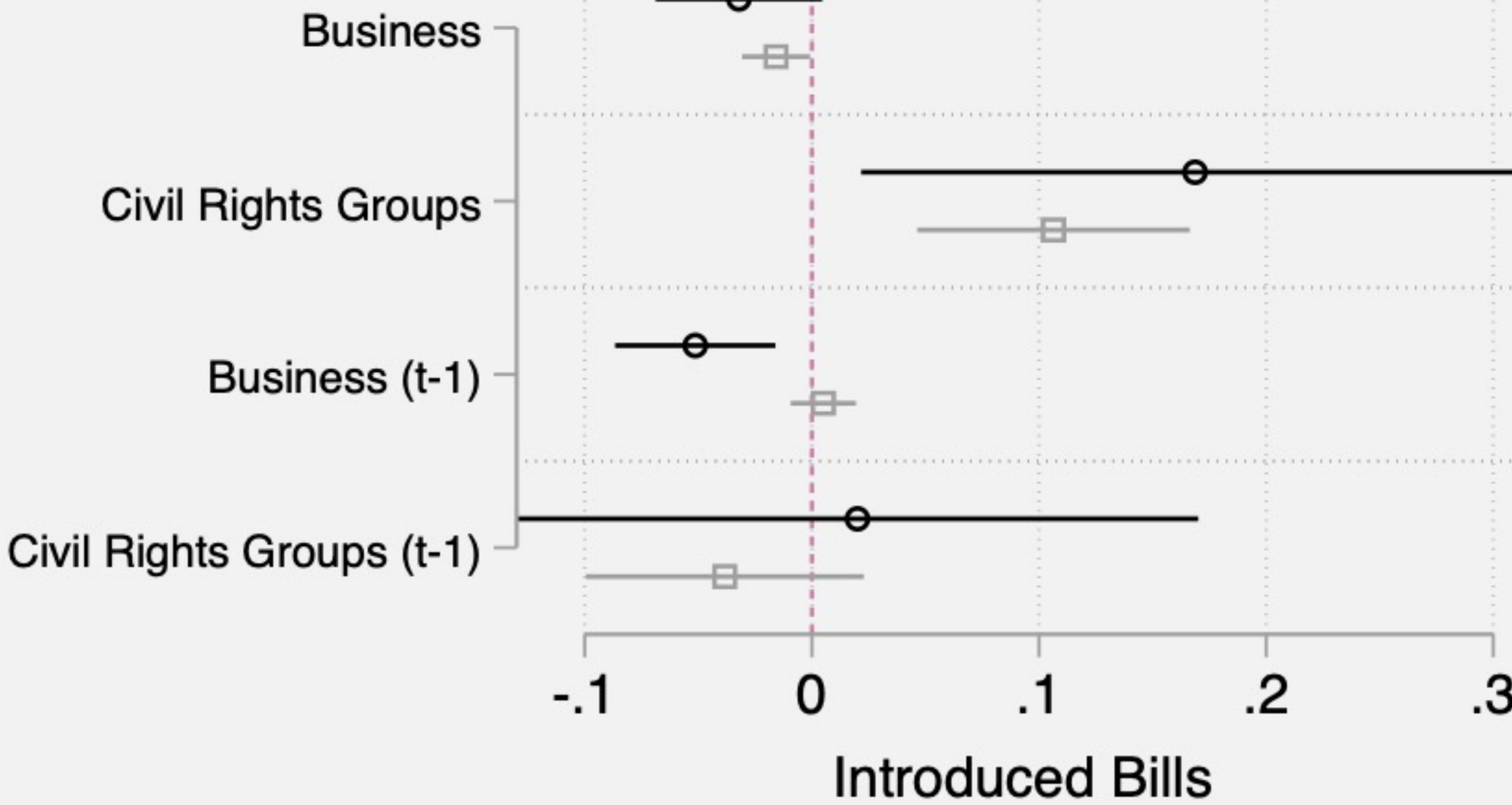
- The Equality Act passing in the US House provides national coverage of LGBT protections, to be law, it has to pass the Senate
- The most recent crucial federal decisions for the overall LGBT community was the SCOTUS decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) and *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia* (2020)
- Leading up to *Hodges (2015)*, states decided whether or not to pass same-sex legal marriages
- With no national protection, LGBT protections have also been left to the states
- This study looks at what causes more bills to be introduced and passed by state legislators
- With LGBT issues in the mainstream following the 2015 court decision, to account for extreme salience, it will be essential to look at legislation introduced in the years leading up to *Hodges*, particularly 2010 to 2015

Theory

- I theorize that increased lobbying from Civil Rights will significantly promote the introduction of good bills because of their organizational ideals
- Business organizations would most likely not show support for more regulations such as non-discrimination policies that might affect business practices

State level Lobbying affects LGBT protection laws— while not all lobbying is equal

Lobbying



○ Good Bills
□ Bad Bills

Methods

- Data was gathered from:
- Human Rights Campaign 2020 State Equality Index: A Review of State Legislation Affecting LGBTQ Community
 - “Dynamic State Interest Group Systems: A New Look with New Data” Interest Groups & Advocacy
 - Klarner data verse. Ranney Index State Legislator Party Control

Good Bills: Positive laws & policies that prohibit discrimination, promotion of LGBTQ education, or benefit the LGBTQ community

Bad Bills: Negative laws & policies that restrict protections, suppress LGBTQ youth, or target the LGBTQ community

- Good and Bad bills introduced from 2010 to 2015 were regressed with lobbying in the state in the same year and a (t-1) model that lagged the lobbying compared to bills that were introduced the following year.

- Party control of the state was also regressed with the lobbying model

Results

Examining the results:

- The negative correlation with business lobbying organizations and good bills suggest that these bills would cause businesses to be non-discriminate
- Civil Rights Groups also show a reactive positive relationship with good bills, which shows they have a positive impact on the introduction of new good LGBT protections bills
- With a definitive difference between Civil Rights Groups effect on bad laws, it might suggest that these groups may be lobbying against these bills

Discussion

The findings in the paper add to the topic of ongoing LGBT protection laws and aspects that go into the introduction of new laws in different states. As it is clear there is a documented disparity between LGBT unemployment rates and regular rates, as well as a difference in states with LGBT protections in place, it is essential to see what leads to those states that have better laws in place. This study shows a relationship between lobbying and the number of bills introduced into different states. Further studies should look at what affects the introduction of LGBT protection laws on the national level.



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