



UCLA'S WILLIAMS INSTITUTE RELEASES NEW STUDY ON THE FISCAL IMPACT OF SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IN MAINE

For Immediate Release

May 6, 2009

Media Contact:

M.V. Lee Badgett 310-904-9761 badgett@law.ucla.edu
Christopher Ramos, 310.206.0883 ramos@law.ucla.edu
Brad Sears, 310.794.5279 sears@law.ucla.edu

LOS ANGELES – A new research study released today by the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law shows that by allowing same-sex couples to marry in Maine the state budget will experience a boost of approximately \$8 million per year. This net impact will result from an increase in state income and sales tax revenue as well as savings in expenditures on state means-tested public benefit programs.

Today, the governor of Maine signed a bill into law that extends marriage to same-sex couples in the state.

“Extending marriage rights to same-sex couples will not only provide needed protections to same-sex couples in Maine, but it will also inject new tax revenue and spending into Maine’s economy and state budget,” explains study co-author Brad Sears, Executive Director of The Williams Institute.

In calculating the net benefit to the State, the study predicts that half of Maine’s 4,644 same-sex couples, or 2,316 couples, will marry in the first three years of being able to do so. The study also projects that 15,660 non-resident same-sex couples will come to Maine to marry.

“As recent experiences in other states demonstrate, same-sex couples will travel for the right to marry and Maine is a likely tourist destination for many of those couples,” noted co-author M. V. Lee Badgett, Research Director of the Williams Institute and director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

“As marriage equality expands in New England, Maine has now ensured that most of its residents will marry at home instead of neighboring Vermont, Connecticut or Massachusetts,” added study co-author Christopher Ramos, Researcher at the Williams Institute.

The study finds that same-sex weddings and associated tourism will generate \$60 million in spending over three years, providing a boom to the state economy. Furthermore, this spending

will generate an increase in sales tax revenue of about \$3.1 million over three years. Marriage license fees will generate more than \$500,000 for Maine's counties.

The Williams Institute for Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy advances law and public policy through rigorous, independent research and scholarship, and disseminates its work through a variety of education programs and media to judges, legislators, lawyers, other policymakers and the public. This study can be accessed at the Williams Institute website, www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute.

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