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UPDATE! HATE CRIMES BILL

**S. 909 PASSED a big hurdle last night, but is not law, yet!
Final language will be worked out when the defense bill goes to
conference.**

H.R. 1319 is the House Hate Crimes bill that passed, 249 – 175, several weeks ago.
But it is not law ... YET!

S. 909, the Senate Hate Crimes bill is on its way to passing the Senate after last
night's 10:51 p.m. to stop debate.

It was attached to the National Defense Authorization Act.

But it's not law ... YET!

The Process is not over ... YET!

The vote last night was a procedural vote to set up a final vote and final adoption over the next
few days.

The Senate approved the hate crime legislation last year, but it was also part of the military
authorization bill. Result: *it was never reconciled* with a similar bill that passed the House.

Two amendments to the hate crimes bill were adopted last night:

1. Senator Leahy (D-VT) offered a "second degree" amendment that passed by voice vote. It
would, essentially, state that no provision in the federal hate crimes measure shall add to or
detract from the First Amendment to the Constitution **protecting free speech**.
2. Senator Brownback (R-KS) offered another "second degree" floor amendment to the hate
crimes bill and it passed, too. It would **protect free speech** under the First Amendment to the
Constitution unless such speech is intended to "plan or prepare for an act of physical violence or
incite an imminent act of physical violence against another person."

**Different language in H.R. 1319 and S. 909 means a conference committee
must produce a reconciled version of the two, before a final bill is presented to
the House and Senate for defeat or passage. If both House and Senate pass the
final version, then, it will go to the president for his signature.**

ACTION – Pray! “You have not because you ask not!” (KJV)