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College Goal Sunday

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By RACHEL CAUPHEN
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Special to the Leader & Times

Senator declares Kan. 'religious liberties protection' bill dead

By JOHN HANNA
AP Radio/Writer

TOPEKA — An antigay marriage proposal that ended Kansas police in hotel for chairman of a state Senate committee resigned Wednesday after a week of anger. The Republican Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Jeff King, 64, who's against likely to end the debate over providing legal protections for people and organizations refusing for religious reasons to provide goods and services to gay and lesbian couples, said he told fellow Republicans, and he'll have hearings on whether Kansas needs to enact religious freedom protections to ease the federal courts' shifts from the state's gay-marriage ban.

The House approved a bill last week to prohibit government sanctions in anti-discrimination lawsuits when individuals, groups and businesses cite their religious beliefs. The measure would provide exemptions to accommodations and employment benefits related to marriage, such as a business partnership or a reception at a hotel or banquet hall.

Opponents said those views were expressed Florida, Indiana and photographers from being punished for refusing to participate in same-sex weddings. Some churches from having to provide space or charge for it, and adoption agencies from being forced to place children with gay couples. Critics said the measure would have allowed discrimination based on religious beliefs and had no protections for gay and lesbian Senate leaders already had said the bill would not pass their chamber, but King said Tuesday that his committee was trying to

"I'm not working House Bill 2453," and King, an Independence Republican, referring to the measure by number.

King said he's not drafting a narrower alternative. He said he'll have hearings on