



## **Southern LGBT Bills Could Give Ga. Business Recruiting Edge**

By Johnny Kauffman • April 12, 2016

More businesses could be looking to move to Georgia after North Carolina and Mississippi recently passed controversial religious exemptions laws.

A list of major corporations, as well as activists, say the new laws are discriminatory against LGBT people.

After businesses spoke out against a similar measure in Georgia, Gov. Nathan Deal vetoed it. That helped Georgia's business friendly image, according to John Boyd, principal of the Boyd Company, which helps corporations decide where to locate.

“This idea of Georgia not going down the road of a North Carolina and a Mississippi, and experiencing the type of backlash because of these religious freedom bills, that’s something that job creators and savvy business leaders respect and appreciate,” Boyd said.

Boyd also says Georgia could be in the running for a new PayPal operations center the company was planning to build in North Carolina until a religious exemptions law passed there.

“This also has implications on the very valuable tours and the travel industries,” he added. “Georgia's ability now to attract conventions that otherwise would have gone to North Carolina, that's a real opportunity for the state.”

Boyd says Deal and others will no doubt remind corporations of the veto when they pitch Georgia as a good place to do business.