



POLITICS | POLYGAMY BILL AUTHOR SUBMITTED LEGISLATION AT BEHEST OF GOVERNOR

According to a well-placed source, Governor Grant and Senator Zurikurta worked out a secret agreement to hide the former's involvement

by Gerts V. Welsh | December 21, 2022

OAKLAND— A secret agreement with the Governor led Senator Zurikurta (D-FR) to introduce a polygamy legalization bill in the Fremont legislature, according to a well-placed source who spoke to the *Fremonter*.

The source, who served as the senior Fremont senator's legislative director during the undisclosed talks, claims that the Senator had conversations with Governor Michael D. Grant (R-FR) about the introduction of a bill that would repeal Fremont's longstanding prohibition on multiple simultaneous marriages, otherwise known as polygamy.

According to the source, "the Governor met discreetly with the Senator about six months ago. I arranged the meeting on the Senator's end, but the Governor didn't even want his staff to know, so he reached out directly."

They then added, "Grant begged them [meaning the Senator] to reintroduce a polygamy bill—he was afraid of the public perception had he done it, but apparently the Mormons were really lobbying hard for it."

Governor Grant is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, whose polygamous practices in its early history caused great alarm and resulted in Congress enacting three federal criminal bans on polygamy in 1862, 1882 and 1887. Church leaders formally discontinued the practice of polygamy in 1890, though some small fundamentalist sects continue to do so to this day.

While polygamy has long been prohibited throughout the United States, the consensus has fractured in recent years.

In 2019, Greater Appalachia became the first state to legalize polygamy as the result of a state supreme court decision finding that a constitutional right to privacy. Polygamy is also decriminalized

in the Atlantic Commonwealth, where that state's high court in 2020 struck down a criminal ban on attempting to contract multiple marriages on religious freedom grounds but stopped short of actually legalizing polygamy.

However, Fremont bucked this trend of court-led deregulation of polygamy when the state supreme court in 2019 turned back a challenge to the state's criminal ban, finding that it was bound by an 1878 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court that upheld such bans.

The bill in question, which is currently before the State Assembly, would achieve what the 2019 lawsuit could not by repealing Fremont's longstanding criminal laws that prevent multiple simultaneous marriages.

"There is nothing so vexatious to tyrants as a free press." —Samuel Adams

© 2022 The Meiklejohnian Society, a Fremont non-profit enterprise. *The Fremonter* is published in Oakland, Fremont. Not for sale or distribution outside of Fremont and the Atlantic Commonwealth.

[Terms of Service](#) · [Privacy Policy](#) · [Notice of Collection](#) · [Cookie Settings](#) · [Do not sell my data](#) · [Geofencing](#)

[Sitemap](#)