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## **[Anti-Evolution and Anti-Climate Science Legislation Scorecard: 2015](#)** [3]

We laughed, we cried, we felt a thousand emotions. And when the dust finally settled, we were left with the usual pile of dead anti-science copycat bills, often from the usual players. We're looking at you, Missouri and Oklahoma.

The tally was nearly identical to 2014's. Four bills targeted evolution, one climate science, two unspecified "scientific controversies," and one adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Small surprise: The fifth attempt to repeal the so-called Louisiana Science Education Act died in committee. Kudos to Friend of Darwin winner and student activist Zack Kopplin and Louisiana state senator Karen Carter Peterson for tilting at this particular windmill.

No fewer than four Darwin Day resolutions were introduced in 2015, in the House of Representatives and (for the first time) in the Senate as well as in Arizona and Pennsylvania. None have passed.

The battles for science education weren't just fought in state legislatures this year, but in state boards of education trying to adopt the NGSS. Although dozens of states had a hand in crafting the NGSS, only fourteen (plus the District of Columbia) have (more or less) adopted the standards. Only three states (Arkansas [so far only for K-8], Iowa, and West Virginia) signed up in 2015, although South Dakota's new state science standards, though not identical to the NGSS, are certainly indebted to them. There was also progress in Wyoming, where a 2014 law blocking the adoption of the NGSS was repealed in 2015.

Meanwhile, anti-science forces continue to undermine NGSS adoption. In Utah, new science standards for middle school have been blocked all year, allegedly over climate change and evolution. And after the

Kansas state board of education voted to adopt the NGSS in 2013, a lawsuit attempting to undo the decision was filed, alleging that the NGSS "will have the effect of causing Kansas public schools to establish and endorse a non-theistic religious worldview." The suit was dismissed in late 2014, but the inevitable appeal was immediately filed and is currently before the Tenth Circuit.

The legislative lay of the land:

### **Alabama**

House Bill 592

Aim: Would encourage teachers and students to "debate the strengths and weaknesses of the theory of evolution in public schools across Alabama."

Status: Died in committee

Links:

[Antiscience bill dies in Alabama](#) [4]

### **Arizona**

House Resolution 2002

Aim: Would designate February 12, 2015, as Darwin Day.

Status: Died in committee

Links:

[Darwin Day resolution in Arizona](#) [5]

### **Indiana**

Senate Bill 562

Aim: Would prevent administrators from stopping teachers from miseducating students about "scientific controversies" (mentioning only human cloning).

Status: Died in committee

Links:

[Antiscience bill dies in Indiana](#) [6]

### **Iowa**

House File 272

Aim: Would have prevented Iowa from adopting the Next Generation Science Standards (in part because of the NGSS's treatment of evolution and climate change).

Status: Died in committee. (Iowa adopted the NGSS in August.)

Links:

[Anti-NGSS bill in Iowa dies](#) [7]

### **Louisiana**

Senate Bill 74

Aim: Would repeal so-called Louisiana Science Education Act of 2008.

Status: Died in committee.

Links:

[Repeal effort fails again in Louisiana](#) [8]

## **Missouri**

House Bill 486

Aim: Would confer "academic freedom to teach scientific evidence regarding evolution" to teachers. The bill specifically cited "the theory of biological and hypotheses of chemical evolution" as controversial.

Status: Died in committee

Links:

[Antievolution bill dies in Missouri](#) [9]

## **Montana**

House Bill 321

Aim: Would encourage high school teachers to present evolutionary biology as disputed theory.

Status: Died in committee

Links:

[Antiscience bill in Montana dies](#) [10]

## **Oklahoma**

Senate Bill 665

Aim: Would prevent administrators from stopping teachers from miseducating students about "scientific controversies" (none specifically identified).

Status: Died in committee

Links:

[Antiscience bill dies in Oklahoma](#) [11]

## **Pennsylvania**

House Resolution 83

Aim: Would designate February 12, 2015, as Darwin Day in Pennsylvania

Status: In committee

Links:

[Darwin Day resolution in Pennsylvania](#) [12]

## **South Dakota**

Senate Bill 114

Aim: Would prevent administrators from stopping teachers from miseducating students about science (listing "biological evolution, the chemical origins of life, global warming, [and] human cloning").

Status: Died in committee

Links:

[Antiscience bill in South Dakota dies](#) [13]

## **United States House of Representatives**

House Resolution 67

Aim: Would designate February 12, 2015, as Darwin Day

Status: In committee

Links:

[Darwin Day resolution in Congress](#) [14]

## United States Senate

Senate Resolution 66

Aim: Would designate February 12, 2015, as Darwin Day

Status: In committee

Links:

[Darwin Day resolution in the Senate](#) [15]

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