



Published on NCSE (<https://ncse.com>)

[Home](#) > Anti-Evolution and Anti-Climate Science Legislation Scorecard: 2017

SHARE TWEET EMAIL [PRINT](#) [1]

[Robert Luhn](#) [2]

11.27.2017

[Anti-Evolution and Anti-Climate Science Legislation Scorecard: 2017](#) [3]

Thanks in part to NCSE's efforts, it was a bad year for those who would make it easier to miseducate kids about science, with one major exception: Florida. Signed into law in June 2017, Florida's House Bill 989 allows any county resident—not just any parent with a child in the country's public schools—to file a complaint about textbooks and other instructional materials. Climate change and evolution were clearly among the targets of HB 989.

Anti-science legislation fared poorly elsewhere in the U.S. None of the “academic freedom” bills aimed at empowering teachers to miseducate their students passed, although it was close in Oklahoma and South Dakota. In Arkansas, a bill that would allow creationism to be taught never got to the point of being drafted. A novelty in 2017 were “academic freedom” bills in the form of non-binding resolutions, which were passed in Alabama and Indiana.

The legislative lay of the land:

Alabama

House Joint Resolution 78

Aim: "Academic freedom"

Status: Passed House and Senate; did not require governor's signature

Links: [Antiscience resolution adopted in Alabama](#) [4]

Arkansas

HB 2050

Aim: would allow creationism to be taught in public schools

Status: Died in House committee

Links: [Arkansas creationism bill apparently dies](#) [5]

Florida

HB 989

Aim: Instructional materials challenge

Status: Passed the House and Senate; signed into law

SB 1210

Aim: Instructional materials challenge

Status: Abandoned in favor of HB 989

Links: [Florida's antiscience bill becomes law](#) [6]

Idaho

Senate Concurrent Resolution 121

Aim: Delete climate change from state science standards

Status: Passed both houses; did not require governor's signature

Links: [Climate change deletion finalized in Idaho](#) [7]

Indiana

Senate Resolution 17

Aim: "Academic freedom"

Status: Passed Senate; did not require House passage or governor's signature

Links: [Indiana antiscience resolution passes the Senate](#) [8]

Iowa

HF 140

Aim: Would make state science standards optional or repeal them

Status: Died in House committee

HF 480

Aim: Would require "opposing points of view" to evolution and climate change be taught

Status: Died in House committee

Links: [Two down in Iowa](#) [9]

Oklahoma

SB 393

Aim: "Academic freedom" bill

Status: Passed in Senate; died in the House

Links: [Oklahoma's antiscience bill blocked](#) [10]

South Dakota

SB 55

Aim: Would have empowered science denial in the classroom

Status: Died in committee

Links: [South Dakota's antiscience bill stopped](#) [11]

Texas

HB 1485

Aim: "Academic freedom" bill

Status: Died in House committee

Links: [Antiscience legislation dies in Texas](#) [12]

Wisconsin

AB 299

Aim: Campus free speech bill; creationist sponsor claims it might protect creationist college students

Status: Passed Assembly, currently with Senate

SB 250

Aim: Campus free speech bill; creationist sponsor claims it might protect creationist college students

Status: Currently with Senate

Links: [Would a Wisconsin bill protect science denial on campus?](#) [13]

CONTACT: Robert Luhn, NCSE, 510-601-7203, luhn@ncse.com, www.ncse.com [14]

The National Center for Science Education (NCSE) defends the integrity of science education against ideological interference. We work with teachers, parents, scientists, and concerned citizens at the local, state, and national levels to ensure that topics including evolution and climate change are taught accurately, honestly, and confidently. Our work is made possible by our members and other generous donors.

[Anti-Evolution](#) [15]

[Climate Change](#) [16]

[Legislation](#) [17]

[2017](#) [18]

Press related:

Yes

[+ read](#) [3]

Source URL: <https://ncse.com/news/2017/11/anti-evolution-anti-climate-science-legislation-scorecard-0018661>

Links

[1] <https://ncse.com/printpdf/18661>

[2] <https://ncse.com/users/robert-luhn>

[3] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/11/anti-evolution-anti-climate-science-legislation-scorecard-0018661>

[4] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/05/antiscience-resolution-adopted-alabama-0018530>

[5] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/04/arkansas-creationism-bill-apparently-dies-0018506>

[6] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/06/floridas-antiscience-bill-becomes-law-0018567>

[7] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/03/climate-change-deletion-finalized-idaho-0018499>

[8] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/02/indiana-antiscience-resolution-passes-senate-0018475>

- [9] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/03/two-down-iowa-0018481>
- [10] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/04/oklahomas-antiscience-bill-blocked-0018527>
- [11] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/02/south-dakotas-antiscience-bill-stopped-0018465>
- [12] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/05/antiscience-legislation-dies-texas-0018533>
- [13] <https://ncse.com/news/2017/06/would-wisconsin-bill-protect-science-denial-campus-0018551>
- [14] <http://www.ncse.com>
- [15] <https://ncse.com/news/anti-evolution>
- [16] <https://ncse.com/news/climate-change>
- [17] <https://ncse.com/news/legislation>
- [18] <https://ncse.com/news/2017>