In 1981, Wisconsin became the first state to adopt a law protecting gay men and lesbians from discrimination. By the year 2000, ten more states had passed similar laws.

SECTION 17: It is discrimination because of sexual orientation:
1. For any employer, labor organization, licensing agency or employment agency or other person to refuse to hire, employ, admit or license, or to bar or terminate from employment, membership or licensure any individual, or to discriminate against an individual in promotion, compensation or in terms, conditions or privileges of employment because of the individual’s sexual orientation.