



ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) The Minnesota House has scheduled a Thursday debate and

floor vote on the bill to legalize same-sex marriage in the state. House DFL leadership announced the plans Tuesday. House Speaker Paul Thissen has previously said that scheduling the vote would be a signal that DFL leaders secured the 68 votes needed to pass the bill.

If the House passes the bill, the next vote would be in the state Senate. But its passage has been seen as more secure there than in the House. Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton has promised to sign the bill, which would allow gay couples to start getting married in Minnesota on Aug. 1.

The Senate Finance Committee is scheduled to give a last committee look at the bill on Tuesday.