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Massachusetts Democrats are preparing to endorse same-sex "marriage" in their party platform this week, reopening a bitter split among national party leaders, some of whom fear the issue will hurt their campaign to win back majority status in Congress.

State Democrats plan to embrace same-sex "marriage" at their party convention Saturday, despite deep disagreement over the issue between the state's two U.S. senators, an arms-length posture by the national party, and a public backlash against it that has spawned a political movement to ban it in state law and at the federal level in the U.S. Constitution.