No Alimony Proposal Approved

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — If the Louisiana House of Representatives agrees with a minor amendment, Gov. Dave Treen will have to decide if alimony should be denied to people who live in "open and notorious" concubinage.

The measure won 35-2 approval Thursday from the Senate.

"This puts a very new concept into our law. Alimony can be permanently denied to these people," said Sen. Tom Casey of New Orleans in explaining the bill to the Senate.

There were no questions and the measure passed 35-2.

The "open and notorious" language is used because it is in Louisiana's Napoleonic Code of civil law, which dates back to the early 19th Century.

The bill by Rep. Francis Thompson of Delhi was returned to the House for concurrence on a minor Senate committee amendments.

Thompson, a businessman, has said he doesn't know why the Legislature hasn't taken action in this area before.

"The present law appears to condone couples living together outside the institution of marriage," he said. "We're seeing moral decay. Maybe this will encourage the people living together to get married."