

**SENATE, No. 4169**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**218th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 7, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ROBERT W. SINGER**

**District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Adopts State definition of anti-Semitism.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning anti-Semitism in the State of New Jersey and  
2 supplementing Title 10 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Anti-Semitism and harassment on the basis of actual or  
9 perceived national origin, shared ancestry, or ethnic characteristics  
10 with a religious group, remains a persistent, pervasive, and  
11 disturbing problem in contemporary American society.

12 b. Data shows that Jews are among the most likely of all  
13 minority groups to be victimized by incidents of hate, and such  
14 incidents are increasing at an alarming rate.

15 c. Data also shows that the State of New Jersey ranked third in  
16 the nation in anti-Semitic incidents last year.

17 d. College campus anti-Semitism is systemic, broad and deep,  
18 with recent studies showing that the number of Jewish students  
19 experiencing anti-Semitism on college campuses across the United  
20 States had spiked to nearly 75 percent and, in 2017 alone, there  
21 were more than 204 reports of anti-Semitic incidents of harassment,  
22 vandalism, or assault against Jewish students on college campuses,  
23 an 89 percent increase from the previous year.

24 e. State officials and institutions, including educational  
25 institutions, have a responsibility to protect the public from hate and  
26 bigotry, and must be given the tools to stem both criminal conduct  
27 as well as discriminatory acts motivated by anti-Semitism.

28 f. Valid monitoring, informed analysis and investigating, and  
29 effective policy-making all require uniform definitions.

30 g. The standard definition of anti-Semitism, as used by the  
31 federal government; the 33 governments that are members of the  
32 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and the 57  
33 countries, except Russia, that comprise the Organization for  
34 Security and Cooperation in Europe, has been an essential  
35 definitional tool used to determine contemporary manifestations of  
36 anti-Semitism, and includes useful examples of discriminatory anti-  
37 Israel acts that cross the line into anti-Semitism.

38 h. Awareness of this definition of anti-Semitism will increase  
39 understanding of the parameters of contemporary anti-Jewish crime  
40 and discrimination.

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42 2. a. For the purposes of this act:

43 “Anti-Semitism” means a certain perception of Jewish persons,  
44 which may be expressed as hatred toward Jewish persons,  
45 including, but not limited to, the following:

46 (1) hatred or severe disparagement toward Jewish persons and  
47 their culture;

1 (2) rhetorical, violent, or physical anti-Jewish manifestations  
2 directed against Jewish or non-Jewish individuals or their property  
3 or Jewish community institutions and religious facilities;

4 (3) the calling for, aiding, encouraging, supporting, or justifying  
5 the killing, harming, or defaming of anyone, simply for practicing  
6 Judaism or exhibiting a Jewish heritage;

7 (4) making false and mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing,  
8 demeaning, or stereotypical allegations about Jewish persons as  
9 such or the power of Jewish persons as a collective, including  
10 allegations such as the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of  
11 Jewish persons controlling the media, economy, government, or  
12 other societal institutions;

13 (5) accusing those practicing Judaism, or exhibiting a Jewish  
14 heritage, whether singularly or collectively, as being wholly  
15 responsible for any real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a  
16 single Jewish person or group;

17 (6) accusing those practicing Judaism, or exhibiting a Jewish  
18 heritage, whether singularly or collectively, as being wholly  
19 responsible for any real or imagined wrongdoing committed by the  
20 State of Israel; and

21 (7) accusing those practicing Judaism, or exhibiting a Jewish  
22 heritage, whether singularly or collectively, as being more loyal to  
23 Israel, or the alleged priorities of Jewish persons worldwide, than to  
24 the interests of the people of the State of New Jersey, or to the  
25 interests of the people of the United States.

26 The term “anti-Semitism” shall not include criticism of Israel  
27 similar to that leveled against any other country.

28 b. In reviewing, investigating, adjudicating, or determining  
29 whether there has been a violation of any policy, law, or regulation  
30 prohibiting discriminatory acts, the State shall take into  
31 consideration the definition of anti-Semitism contained in  
32 subsection a. of this section as part of its assessment, in any  
33 decision, determination, adjudication, or judgement as to whether  
34 the alleged act was motivated by anti-Semitic intent.

35 c. Nothing contained in this act, P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
36 before the Legislature as this bill), shall be construed to diminish or  
37 infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the  
38 United States Constitution, or paragraph 6 of Article I of the New  
39 Jersey State Constitution. Nothing in this act shall be construed to  
40 conflict with local, State, or federal anti-discrimination laws or  
41 regulations.

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43 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill adopts a State definition of anti-Semitism. A recent report from the Anti-Defamation League noted that in 2018 there were 1,879 anti-Semitic incidents against Jewish persons and Jewish institutions, which included the deadliest attack on Jewish persons in American history. Of the 1,879 incidents in 2018, 1,066 were cases of harassment, an increase of five percent from 2017, and 774 were cases of vandalism, a decrease of 19 percent from 952 in 2017.

New Jersey ranked third in the nation in anti-Semitic incidents in 2018, with 200 anti-Semitic incidents reported. In New Jersey, Bergen, Middlesex, Ocean, and Union counties had the largest number of reported anti-Semitic incidents in 2018 at 36, 23, 21, and 19, respectively.

This bill provides a State definition of anti-Semitism modeled after the definition of anti-Semitism, as used by the federal government, the 33 governments that are members of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and the 57 countries, except Russia, that comprise the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Awareness of this definition of anti-Semitism will increase understanding of the parameters of contemporary anti-Jewish crime and discrimination.

The definition of anti-Semitism in the bill does not include criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country. In reviewing, investigating, adjudicating, or determining whether there has been a violation of any policy, law, or regulation prohibiting discriminatory acts, the State is required to take into consideration the definition of anti-Semitism contained in this bill for the purposes of determining whether the alleged act was motivated by anti-Semitic intent.

Nothing contained in this bill is to be construed to diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, or paragraph 6 of Article I of the New Jersey State Constitution, and nothing in this bill is to be construed to conflict with local, State, or federal anti-discrimination laws or regulations.