

ASSEMBLY, No. 5677

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Defines anti-Semitism for certain civil or criminal purposes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/12/2021)

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

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. For the purposes of this act:

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

11 (1) hatred or severe disparagement toward Jewish persons and
12 their culture;

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

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

19 (4) making false and mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing,
20 demeaning, or stereotypical allegations about Jewish persons as such
21 or the power of Jewish persons as a collective, including allegations
22 such as the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jewish
23 persons controlling the media, economy, government, or other
24 societal institutions;

25 (5) accusing those practicing Judaism, or exhibiting a Jewish
26 heritage, whether singularly or collectively, as being wholly
27 responsible for any real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a
28 single Jewish person or group;

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

33 (7) accusing those practicing Judaism, or exhibiting a Jewish
34 heritage, whether singularly or collectively, as being more loyal to
35 Israel, or the alleged priorities of Jewish persons worldwide, than to
36 the interests of the people of the State of New Jersey, or to the
37 interests of the people of the United States.

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

40 b. In reviewing, investigating, or deciding whether there has been
41 a violation of any policy, law, or regulation prohibiting
42 discriminatory acts under the civil or criminal laws of this State, a
43 public official of the State or law enforcement officer shall take into
44 consideration the definition of anti-Semitism set forth in subsection
45 a. of this section for the purposes of determining whether the alleged
46 act was motivated by discriminatory anti-Semitic intent.

47 c. Nothing contained in this act, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
48 before the Legislature as this bill), shall be construed to diminish or

1 infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the
2 United States Constitution, or paragraph 6 of Article I of the New
3 Jersey State Constitution. Nothing in this act shall be construed to
4 conflict with local, State, or federal anti-discrimination laws or
5 regulations.

6
7 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
8
9

10 STATEMENT 11

12 This bill defines anti-Semitism in the New Jersey Statutes. The
13 bill provides a State definition of anti-Semitism that is widely
14 accepted and consensus-based. It is used by various agencies of the
15 federal government and the 33 governments that are members of the
16 International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance; recommended for
17 use by the European Council and the European Parliament; endorsed
18 by the United Nations Secretary General and the Secretary General
19 of the Organization of American States; included in policy guides
20 prepared by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in
21 Europe; and formally adopted by a growing number of European
22 nations.

23 The definition of anti-Semitism in the bill does not include
24 criticism of the government of Israel.

25 In reviewing, investigating, or deciding whether there has been a
26 violation of any policy, law, or regulation prohibiting discriminatory
27 acts under the civil or criminal laws of this State, a public official of
28 the State or law enforcement officer is required to take into
29 consideration the definition of anti-Semitism set forth in this bill for
30 the purposes of determining whether the alleged act was motivated
31 by discriminatory anti-Semitic intent.

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