

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 139

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

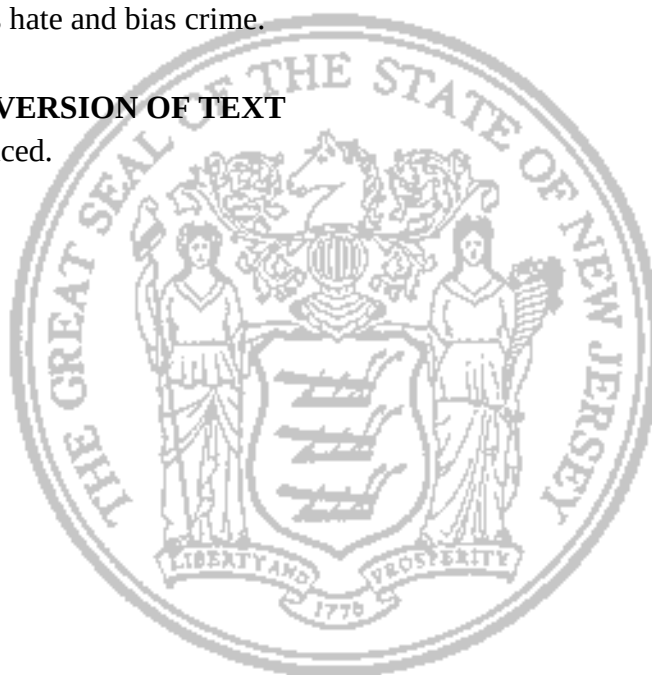
**Assemblyman Danielsen, Assemblywoman Pinkin, Assemblyman Verrelli,
Assemblywoman Jasey, Assemblyman Freiman, Assemblywoman Jimenez,
Assemblymen Mejia, Tully, Assemblywoman Swain, Assemblyman
McKeon, Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblyman Houghtaling and
Assemblywoman Timberlake**

SYNOPSIS

Condemns hate and bias crime.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** condemning hate crimes and any other
2 form of bias crime in New Jersey.
3
4 **WHEREAS**, In the past several years, violent crimes, threats of
5 violence, and other incidents of hate-motivated targeting of
6 religious, racial, and ethnic minorities have increased across the
7 State of New Jersey and the United States; and
8 **WHEREAS**, The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines a hate
9 crime as a “criminal offense against a person or property motivated
10 in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against a race, religion,
11 disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity”;
12 and
13 **WHEREAS**, According to FBI statistics, the number of reported hate
14 crime incidents nationally in 2017 had increased 17 percent over
15 2016 totals, representing the first consecutive three-year annual
16 increase and the largest single-year increase since 2001, when hate
17 crimes targeting Muslim Americans increased in the aftermath of
18 the September 11, 2001 attacks; and
19 **WHEREAS**, According to the FBI, in 2017, 495 hate crimes were
20 reported in New Jersey, a 76 percent increase from the previous
21 year and the fourth-highest total in the nation, and of those hate
22 crimes 260 incidents were attributed to race or ethnic bias, 180
23 incidents were attributed to religious bias, 51 incidents were
24 attributed to sexual orientation, and four incidents were attributed to
25 disability; and
26 **WHEREAS**, In 2017, anti-Semitic incidents increased 57 percent in the
27 United States compared to 2016, and 32 percent in New Jersey with
28 208 reported incidents, according to the Anti-Defamation League’s
29 2017 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, which describes trends such
30 as the tripling of assaults targeting Jews since 2012 and the rise of
31 online harassment and hate speech directed at Jewish journalists
32 and individuals through social media; and
33 **WHEREAS**, On October 27, 2018, 11 people were killed and seven
34 wounded in an armed attack at a synagogue, Tree of Life – Or
35 L'Simcha Congregation, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and
36 **WHEREAS**, In 2015, among single-bias hate crime incidents in the
37 United States, 59.2 percent of victims were targeted due to racial,
38 ethnic, or ancestry bias, and among those victims, 52.2 percent
39 were victims of crimes motivated by the offenders’ anti-Black or
40 anti-African-American bias, according to the FBI; and
41 **WHEREAS**, In 2015, the U.S. Transgender Survey results found that 16
42 percent of transgender students in kindergarten through grade 12 in
43 New Jersey faced such severe mistreatment as transgender persons
44 that they left the school and, further, 26 percent of respondents in
45 New Jersey who were out or perceived as transgender in college or
46 vocational school were verbally, physically, or sexually harassed
47 because of being transgender; and

1 **WHEREAS**, On June 12, 2016, 49 people were killed and 58 others
2 wounded in an armed attack on Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando,
3 Florida; and

4 **WHEREAS**, In 2017, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
5 (NCAVP) reported a 26 percent increase in reported lesbian-gay-
6 bisexual-transgender-queer (LGBTQ) homicides nationally in 2016,
7 and of the homicides reported in 2017, 75 percent were LGBTQ
8 people of color; and

9 **WHEREAS**, In 2018, there has been harassment and hate-based
10 violence against individuals who are perceived to be Muslim,
11 including members of South Asian communities in the United
12 States, and Hindu and Sikh-Americans have been the target of hate-
13 based violence targeting religious minorities; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The Bias Crime Unit, in the New Jersey Division of
15 Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, is the
16 Statewide coordinator of efforts to eliminate crimes motivated by
17 prejudice against others based on race, color, religion, sexual
18 orientation, gender, disability, or ethnicity and investigates
19 complaints; and

20 **WHEREAS**, It is further in the public interest of the citizens of the
21 State of New Jersey and this great nation to condemn, in the
22 strongest terms, any hate crimes or any other form of conduct
23 that constitutes racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination
24 based on disability, age, marriage, familial status, or sexuality or
25 gender discrimination including incitement to violence; now,
26 therefore,

27
28 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
29 *Jersey:*

30
31 1. This House strongly condemns hate crimes and any other
32 form of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement
33 to violence, or animus targeting minorities in New Jersey.

34
35 2. The Governor and the Attorney General are encouraged to
36 provide State assistance to victims of hate crimes and to enhance
37 security measures and improve preparedness at religious
38 institutions, places of worship, and other institutions that have been
39 targeted because of their affiliation with any particular race,
40 religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender
41 identity.

42
43 3. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
44 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
45 President and Vice President of the United States of America, the
46 presiding officers of the United States Senate and the House of
47 Representatives, and each member of Congress elected from the
48 State of New Jersey.

STATEMENT

This resolution condemns hate crimes and any other form of racism, religious or ethnic bias, discrimination, incitement to violence, or animus targeting of minorities in New Jersey.

The resolution further encourages the Governor and the Attorney General to provide State assistance to victims of hate crimes and to enhance security measures and improve preparedness at religious institutions, places of worship, and other institutions that have been targeted because of their affiliation with any particular race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.

According to the most recent report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released in November of 2018, the number of reported hate crime incidents nationally in 2017 had increased 17 percent over 2016 totals, representing the first consecutive three-year annual increase and the largest single-year increase since 2001, when hate crimes targeting Muslim Americans increased in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks.

According to FBI statistics, there were 495 hate crimes reported in New Jersey in 2017, a 76 percent increase from the previous year and the fourth-highest reported total in the nation. Of those New Jersey hate crimes, 260 were attributed to race or ethnic bias, 180 were attributed to religious bias, 51 were attributed to sexual orientation, and four were attributed to disability. Most recently, in 2018 New Jersey newspapers have reported that swastikas have been found at schools and on campaign signs.