



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 558

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 90

Senate, April 9, 2026

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. WINFIELD of the 10th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT REVISING AND CONSOLIDATING THE HATE CRIMES STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 53a-181i of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

3 For the purposes of [sections 53a-181j to 53a-181l, inclusive] this
4 section, section 53-37, as amended by this act, 53-37a, 53a-40a, as
5 amended by this act, and sections 53a-181j to 53a-181l, inclusive, as
6 amended by this act, and sections 5 to 13, inclusive, of this act, and
7 sections 15 to 21, inclusive, of this act:

8 (1) "Disability" means [physical disability, mental disability or
9 intellectual disability] any of the following: Physical disability or
10 blindness, each as described in section 1-1f, "intellectual disability" as
11 defined in section 1-1g or mental disability as described in section 46a-
12 51;

13 (2) "Gender identity or expression" [means a person's gender-related
14 identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related
15 identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally
16 associated with the person's assigned sex at birth] has the same meaning
17 as provided in section 1-1n;

18 [(3) "Mental disability" means one or more mental disorders, as
19 defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric
20 Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders";

21 (4) "Intellectual disability" has the same meaning as provided in
22 section 1-1g; and

23 (5) "Physical disability" means any chronic physical handicap,
24 infirmity or impairment, whether congenital or resulting from bodily
25 injury, organic processes or changes or from illness, including, but not
26 limited to, blindness, epilepsy, deafness or being hard of hearing or
27 reliance on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device]

28 (3) "Protected social category" means a person's actual or perceived
29 race, color, religion, ethnicity, disability, alienage, national origin, sex,
30 sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, if sixty years of
31 age or older, or any combination thereof;

32 (4) "Race" includes ethnic traits historically associated with race,
33 including, but not limited to, hair texture and "protective hairstyles", as
34 defined in section 46a-51;

35 (5) "Religion" includes denomination, creed and any aspect of
36 religious observance and practice as well as belief;

37 (6) "Religiously affiliated community center" means real property
38 used for the provision of recreational, social or educational services that
39 is owned or leased by a nonprofit organization that holds such property
40 out as being affiliated with a religion;

41 (7) "Sex" includes pregnancy, child-bearing capacity, sterilization,
42 fertility or related medical conditions; and

43 (8) "Sexual orientation" has the same meaning as provided in section
44 46a-51.

45 Sec. 2. Section 53a-181j of the general statutes is repealed and the
46 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

47 (a) A person is guilty of [intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the
48 first degree] hate crime causing physical injury when such person
49 [maliciously, and] acts with specific intent to intimidate or harass
50 another person motivated in whole or in substantial part by [the actual
51 or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation
52 or gender identity or expression] any protected social category of such
53 other person [,] and intentionally causes physical injury to such other
54 person or [to a third] another person.

55 (b) [Intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the first degree] Hate
56 crime causing physical injury is a class C felony, for which the court
57 shall impose a fine of at least three thousand dollars. [of the fine
58 imposed]

59 (c) A minimum fine pursuant to this section may not be remitted or
60 the amount reduced by the court unless the court states on the record its
61 reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

62 Sec. 3. Section 53a-181k of the general statutes is repealed and the
63 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

64 (a) A person is guilty of [intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the
65 second degree] hate crime causing physical contact when such person
66 [maliciously, and] acts with specific intent to intimidate or harass
67 another person [or group of persons] motivated in whole or in
68 substantial part by [the actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity,
69 disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression of
70 such other person or group of persons, does any of the following: (1)
71 Causes physical contact with such other person or group of persons, (2)
72 damages, destroys or defaces any real or personal property of such other
73 person or group of persons, or (3) threatens, by word or act, to do an act

74 described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, if there is
75 reasonable cause to believe that an act described in subdivision (1) or (2)
76 of this subsection will occur] any protected social category of such other
77 person and intentionally causes physical contact with such other person.

78 (b) [Intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the second degree] Hate
79 crime causing physical contact is a class D felony, for which the court
80 shall impose a fine of at least one thousand dollars. [of the fine imposed]

81 (c) A minimum fine pursuant to this section may not be remitted or
82 the amount reduced by the court unless the court states on the record its
83 reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

84 Sec. 4. Section 53a-181l of the general statutes is repealed and the
85 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

86 (a) A person is guilty of [intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the
87 third degree] hate crime affecting property when such person [,] acts
88 with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person [or group of
89 persons] motivated in whole or in substantial part by [the actual or
90 perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation or
91 gender identity or expression] any protected social category of such
92 other person [or persons] and: (1) [Damages] Intentionally damages,
93 destroys or defaces any real or personal property of such other person,
94 or (2) [threatens, by word or act, to do an act described in subdivision
95 (1) of this subsection or advocates or urges another person to do an act
96 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, if there is reasonable
97 cause to believe that an act described in said subdivision will occur]
98 damages, destroys or defaces any real or personal property of a third
99 person.

100 (b) [Intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the third degree is] A
101 violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section is a class D
102 felony, for which the court shall impose a fine of at least one thousand
103 dollars.

104 (c) A violation of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section is a

105 class E felony, for which the court shall impose a fine of at least one
106 thousand dollars. [of the fine imposed]

107 (d) A minimum fine imposed pursuant to this section may not be
108 remitted or the amount reduced by the court unless the court states on
109 the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

110 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
111 crime affecting a house of religious worship when such person, having
112 no reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so,
113 intentionally damages, destroys or defaces any house of religious
114 worship.

115 (b) A violation of subsection (a) of this section shall be a (1) class D
116 felony, for which the court shall impose a fine of not less than one
117 thousand dollars if property is damaged as a consequence of such
118 violation in an amount up to and including ten thousand dollars, or (2)
119 class C felony, for which the court shall impose a fine of not less than
120 three thousand dollars if the property damaged as a consequence of
121 such violation is in an amount in excess of ten thousand dollars.

122 (c) A minimum fine imposed pursuant to this section may not be
123 remitted or the amount reduced by the court unless the court states on
124 the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

125 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
126 crime by threat of physical contact when such person, with specific
127 intent to intimidate or harass another person motivated in whole or in
128 substantial part by any protected social category of such other person,
129 threatens, by word or act, to cause physical contact with such other
130 person, if there is reasonable cause to believe that such an act will occur.

131 (b) Hate crime by threat of physical contact is a class D felony, for
132 which the court shall impose a fine of not less than one thousand dollars.

133 (c) A minimum fine imposed pursuant to this section may not be
134 remitted or the amount reduced by the court unless the court states on
135 the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

136 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
137 crime by threat to property when such person, with specific intent to
138 intimidate or harass another person motivated in whole or in substantial
139 part by any protected social category of such other person threatens, by
140 word or act, to damage, destroy or deface any real or personal property
141 of (1) such other person, if there is reasonable cause to believe that such
142 an act will occur, or (2) a third person, if there is reasonable cause to
143 believe that such an act will occur.

144 (b) A violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section shall
145 be a class D felony, for which the court shall impose a fine of not less
146 than one thousand dollars.

147 (c) A violation of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall
148 be a class E felony, for which the court shall impose a fine of not less
149 than one thousand dollars.

150 (d) A minimum fine imposed pursuant to this section may not be
151 remitted or the amount reduced by the court unless the court states on
152 the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

153 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
154 crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously
155 affiliated community center in the first degree if such person acts in
156 violation of subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-61aa of
157 the general statutes, as amended by this act, with the intent to cause an
158 evacuation of a building or the grounds of a house of religious worship
159 or religiously affiliated community center, during operational hours or
160 when a building or the grounds of such house of worship or community
161 center are being used for the provision of religious or community
162 services, or used for activities sponsored by such house of worship or
163 community center.

164 (b) Hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or
165 religiously affiliated community center in the first degree is a class C
166 felony.

167 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
168 crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously
169 affiliated community center in the second degree if such person acts in
170 violation of subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-62 of
171 the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the person threatened
172 is in a building or on the grounds of a house of religious worship or
173 religiously affiliated community center, during operational hours or
174 when a building or the grounds of such house of worship or community
175 center are being used for the provision of religious or community
176 services, or used for activities sponsored by such house of worship or
177 community center.

178 (b) Hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or
179 religiously affiliated community center in the second degree is a class D
180 felony.

181 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
182 crime by advocacy or urging if such person, with specific intent to
183 intimidate or harass another person motivated in whole or in substantial
184 part by any protected social category of such other person, advocates or
185 urges another person to damage, destroy or deface any real or personal
186 property of a third person, if there is reasonable cause to believe that
187 such an act will occur.

188 (b) Hate crime by advocacy or urging is a class E felony, for which
189 the court shall impose a fine of not less than one thousand dollars.

190 (c) A minimum fine imposed pursuant to this section may not be
191 remitted or the amount reduced by the court unless the court states on
192 the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

193 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the prosecution
194 or punishment of any person pursuant to section 53a-8 of the general
195 statutes or section 53a-179a of the general statutes.

196 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
197 crime by deprivation of civil rights when such person subjects, or causes

198 to be subjected, any other person to the deprivation of any rights,
199 privileges or immunities, secured or protected by the Constitution or
200 laws of this state or of the United States, motivated in whole or in
201 substantial part by any protected social category of such other person or
202 another person.

203 (b) Hate crime by deprivation of civil rights is a (1) class A
204 misdemeanor, for which the court shall impose a fine of not less than
205 one thousand dollars, or (2) class E felony, for which the court shall
206 impose a fine of not less than one thousand dollars if property is
207 damaged as a consequence of such violation in an amount in excess of
208 one thousand dollars.

209 (c) A minimum fine imposed pursuant to this section may not be
210 remitted or the amount reduced by the court unless the court states on
211 the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

212 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
213 crime by burning a cross if such person places a burning cross or a
214 simulation of a burning cross on any public property, or on any private
215 property without the written consent of the owner, and with intent to
216 intimidate or harass any other person.

217 (b) Hate crime by burning a cross is a (1) class A misdemeanor, for
218 which the court shall impose a fine of not less than one thousand dollars,
219 or (2) class E felony, for which the court shall impose a fine of not less
220 than one thousand dollars if property is damaged as a consequence of
221 such violation in an amount in excess of one thousand dollars.

222 (c) A minimum fine imposed pursuant to this section may not be
223 remitted or the amount reduced by the court unless the court states on
224 the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

225 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
226 crime by noose if such person places a noose or a simulation of a noose
227 on any public property, or on any private property without the written
228 consent of the owner, and with intent to intimidate or harass any other

229 person motivated in whole or in substantial part by any protected social
230 category of such other person or another person.

231 (b) Hate crime by noose is a (1) class A misdemeanor, for which the
232 court shall impose a fine of not less than one thousand dollars, or (2)
233 class E felony, for which the court shall impose a fine of not less than
234 one thousand dollars if property is damaged as a consequence of such
235 violation in an amount in excess of one thousand dollars.

236 (c) A minimum fine imposed pursuant to this section may not be
237 remitted or the amount reduced by the court unless the court states on
238 the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

239 Sec. 14. Section 53-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the
240 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

241 [Any person who, by his] (a) A person is guilty of hate crime by
242 commercial advertisement if such person, by such person's
243 advertisement, ridicules or holds up to contempt any person [or class of
244 persons, on account of the creed, religion, color, denomination,
245 nationality or race of such person or class of persons, shall be guilty of]
246 motivated in whole or in substantial part by any protected social
247 category of such other person.

248 (b) Hate crime by commercial advertisement is a class D
249 misdemeanor.

250 (c) For purposes of this section, "advertisement" only includes
251 commercial speech.

252 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
253 crime by discriminatory public accommodations practice if such person
254 acts in violation of any provision of section 46a-64 of the general
255 statutes, as amended by this act, or 46a-81d of the general statutes, as
256 amended by this act.

257 (b) Hate crime by discriminatory public accommodations practice is
258 a class D misdemeanor.

259 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
260 crime by discriminatory housing practice if such person acts in violation
261 of any provision of section 46a-64c of the general statutes, as amended
262 by this act, or 46a-81e of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

263 (b) Hate crime by discriminatory housing practice is a class D
264 misdemeanor.

265 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
266 crime by false report if such person falsely reports an incident in
267 violation of subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-180
268 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, with specific intent to
269 falsely report another person motivated in whole or in substantial part
270 by any protected social category of such other person.

271 (b) Hate crime by false report is a class C felony.

272 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
273 crime by false report to law enforcement if such person falsely reports
274 an incident to a law enforcement officer or agency in violation of
275 subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-180c of the
276 general statutes, as amended by this act, with specific intent to falsely
277 report another person motivated in whole or in substantial part by any
278 protected social category of such other person.

279 (b) Hate crime by false report to law enforcement is a class E felony.

280 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
281 crime by false report resulting in serious physical injury or death if such
282 person acts in violation of section 17 or 18 of this act and such false
283 report described therein results in the serious physical injury or death
284 of another person.

285 (b) Hate crime by false report resulting in serious physical injury or
286 death is a class B felony.

287 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
288 crime by stalking if such person commits stalking in the second degree

289 as provided in section 53a-181d of the general statutes and intentionally
290 directs such conduct at the other person motivated in whole or in part
291 by any protected social category of such other person.

292 (b) Hate crime by stalking is a class D felony.

293 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A person is guilty of hate
294 crime by misuse of emergency 9-1-1 system if such person misuses the
295 emergency 9-1-1 system in violation of subdivision (1) or (2) of
296 subsection (a) of section 53a-180d of the general statutes, as amended by
297 this act, with specific intent to make a false alarm or complaint or report
298 false information about another person motivated in whole or in
299 substantial part by any protected social category of such other person.

300 (b) Hate crime by misuse of emergency 9-1-1 system is a class A
301 misdemeanor.

302 Sec. 22. Section 53a-40a of the general statutes is repealed and the
303 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

304 (a) A persistent offender of hate crimes [involving bigotry or bias] is
305 a person who (1) stands convicted of a violation of section [46a-58] 53-
306 37, as amended by this act, 53-37a, 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-
307 181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or
308 section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, and
309 (2) has been, prior to the commission of the present crime, convicted of
310 a violation of section [46a-58] 53-37, as amended by this act, 53-37a, 53a-
311 181j, as amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-
312 181l, as amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17,
313 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, or section 46a-58, as amended by this act, in
314 effect prior to October 1, 2026, or section 53a-181b in effect prior to
315 October 1, 2000.

316 (b) When any person has been found to be a persistent offender of
317 hate crimes, [involving bigotry or bias,] the court shall: (1) In lieu of
318 imposing the sentence authorized for the crime under section 53a-35a if
319 the crime is a felony, impose the sentence of imprisonment authorized

320 by said section for the next more serious degree of felony, or (2) in lieu
321 of imposing the sentence authorized for the crime under section 53a-36
322 if the crime is a misdemeanor, impose the sentence of imprisonment
323 authorized by said section for the next more serious degree of
324 misdemeanor, except that if the crime is a class A misdemeanor the
325 court shall impose the sentence of imprisonment for a class [D] E felony
326 as authorized by section 53a-35a.

327 Sec. 23. Subsection (d) of section 54-56e of the general statutes is
328 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
329 *1, 2026*):

330 (d) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, any defendant
331 who enters such program shall pay to the court a participation fee of one
332 hundred dollars. Any defendant who enters such program shall agree
333 to the tolling of any statute of limitations with respect to such crime and
334 to a waiver of the right to a speedy trial. Any such defendant shall
335 appear in court and shall, under such conditions as the court shall order,
336 be released to the supervision of the Court Support Services Division,
337 except that, if a criminal docket for drug-dependent persons has been
338 established pursuant to section 51-181b in the judicial district, such
339 defendant may be transferred, under such conditions as the court shall
340 order, to the court handling such docket for supervision by such court.
341 If the defendant refuses to accept, or, having accepted, violates such
342 conditions, the defendant's case shall be brought to trial. The period of
343 such probation or supervision, or both, shall not exceed two years. If the
344 defendant has reached the age of sixteen years but has not reached the
345 age of eighteen years, the court may order that as a condition of such
346 probation the defendant be referred for services to a youth service
347 bureau established pursuant to section 10-19m, provided the court
348 finds, through an assessment by a youth service bureau or its designee,
349 that the defendant is in need of and likely to benefit from such services.
350 When determining any conditions of probation to order for a person
351 entering such program who was charged with a misdemeanor that did
352 not involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force
353 against another person or a motor vehicle violation, the court shall

354 consider ordering the person to perform community service in the
355 community in which the offense or violation occurred. If the court
356 determines that community service is appropriate, such community
357 service may be implemented by a community court established in
358 accordance with section 51-181c if the offense or violation occurred
359 within the jurisdiction of a community court established by said section.
360 If the defendant is charged with a violation of section [46a-58] 53-37, as
361 amended by this act, 53-37a, 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-181k,
362 as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or section 5,
363 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, the court may
364 order that as a condition of such probation the defendant participate in
365 a hate crimes diversion program as provided in subsection (e) of this
366 section. If a defendant is charged with a violation of section 53-247, the
367 court may order that as a condition of such probation the defendant
368 undergo psychiatric or psychological counseling or participate in an
369 animal cruelty prevention and education program provided such a
370 program exists and is available to the defendant.

371 Sec. 24. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Nothing in section 53-37
372 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181j of the general
373 statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181k of the general statutes, as
374 amended by this act, or 53a-181l of the general statutes, as amended by
375 this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of
376 this act, shall be construed to limit any right under chapter 814c of the
377 general statutes of any person claiming to be aggrieved by a
378 discriminatory practice, as described in chapter 814c of the general
379 statutes, to file a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights and
380 Opportunities or to bring any civil action as authorized by section 46a-
381 98a of the general statutes, section 46a-100 of the general statutes, or as
382 otherwise provided by law.

383 (b) Nothing in section 53-37 of the general statutes, as amended by
384 this act, 53a-181j of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181k
385 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l of the general
386 statutes, as amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15,
387 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to limit the

388 jurisdiction and powers of the Commission on Human Rights and
389 Opportunities and the Attorney General under chapter 814c of the
390 general statutes.

391 (c) Nothing in section 53-37 of the general statutes, as amended by
392 this act, 53a-181j of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181k
393 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l of the general
394 statutes, as amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15,
395 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to affect the authority
396 of any court to order financial restitution pursuant to subsection (c) of
397 section 53a-28 of the general statutes for any victim of a violation of
398 section 53-37 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181j of
399 the general statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181k of the general
400 statutes, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l of the general statutes, as
401 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,
402 19, 20 or 21 of this act.

403 Sec. 25. Section 46a-58 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
404 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
405 *October 1, 2026*):

406 (a) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section for
407 any person to subject, or cause to be subjected, any other person to the
408 deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities, secured or protected
409 by the Constitution or laws of this state or of the United States, on
410 account of religion, national origin, alienage, color, race, sex, gender
411 identity or expression, sexual orientation, blindness, mental disability,
412 physical disability, age, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic
413 violence, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of
414 trafficking in persons.

415 (b) Any person who intentionally desecrates any public property,
416 monument or structure, or any religious object, symbol or house of
417 religious worship, or any cemetery, or any private structure not owned
418 by such person, shall be in violation of subsection (a) of this section. For
419 the purposes of this subsection, "desecrate" means to mar, deface or
420 damage as a demonstration of irreverence or contempt.

421 (c) Any person who places a burning cross or a simulation thereof on
422 any public property, or on any private property without the written
423 consent of the owner, and with intent to intimidate or harass any other
424 person or group of persons, shall be in violation of subsection (a) of this
425 section.

426 (d) Any person who places a noose or a simulation thereof on any
427 public property, or on any private property without the written consent
428 of the owner, and with intent to intimidate or harass any other person
429 on account of religion, national origin, alienage, color, race, sex, gender
430 identity or expression, sexual orientation, blindness, mental disability,
431 physical disability, age, status as a veteran, status as a victim of domestic
432 violence, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of
433 trafficking in persons, shall be in violation of subsection (a) of this
434 section.

435 [(e) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, any
436 person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a
437 class A misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than one thousand
438 dollars, except that if property is damaged as a consequence of such
439 violation in an amount in excess of one thousand dollars, such person
440 shall be guilty of a class D felony and shall be fined not less than one
441 thousand dollars.

442 (2) Any person who violates the provisions of this section by
443 intentionally desecrating a house of religious worship (A) shall be guilty
444 of a class D felony and shall be fined not less than one thousand dollars
445 if property is damaged as a consequence of such violation in an amount
446 up to and including ten thousand dollars, and (B) shall be guilty of a
447 class C felony and shall be fined not less than three thousand dollars if
448 the property damaged as a consequence of such violation is in an
449 amount in excess of ten thousand dollars.

450 (3) The minimum amount of any fine imposed by the provisions of
451 this section may not be remitted or reduced by the court unless the court
452 states on the record its reasons for remitting or reducing such fine.

453 (4) The court may order restitution for any victim of a violation of this
454 section pursuant to subsection (c) of section 53a-28.]

455 (e) Nothing in section 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as
456 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as
457 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,
458 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to limit the meaning of any
459 discriminatory practice as described in this section.

460 Sec. 26. Section 46a-64 of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
461 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
462 *October 1, 2026*):

463 (a) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section: (1)
464 To deny any person within the jurisdiction of this state full and equal
465 accommodations in any place of public accommodation, resort or
466 amusement because of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex,
467 gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of
468 income, intellectual disability, mental disability, physical disability,
469 including, but not limited to, blindness or deafness, status as a veteran,
470 status as a victim of domestic violence, status as a victim of sexual
471 assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons, of the applicant,
472 subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and
473 applicable alike to all persons; (2) to discriminate, segregate or separate
474 on account of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender
475 identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income,
476 intellectual disability, mental disability, learning disability, physical
477 disability, including, but not limited to, blindness or deafness, status as
478 a veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, status as a victim of
479 sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons; (3) for a
480 place of public accommodation, resort or amusement to restrict or limit
481 the right of a mother to breast-feed her child; (4) for a place of public
482 accommodation, resort or amusement to refuse entry to a person with a
483 disability who is accompanied by a service animal; or (5) to deny any
484 person with a disability or any person training an animal as a service
485 animal to assist a person with a disability, accompanied by such service

486 animal, full and equal access to any place of public accommodation,
487 resort or amusement. Any person with a disability or any person
488 training an animal as a service animal may keep such service animal at
489 all times in such place of public accommodation, resort or amusement
490 at no extra charge, provided such service animal is in the direct custody
491 and control of such person. When it is not obvious what service an
492 animal provides, staff of a place of public accommodation, resort or
493 amusement may inquire of the owner or keeper whether such animal is
494 a service animal required because of a disability and what work or task
495 the animal has been trained to perform. Nothing in this subsection shall
496 preclude a business owner's ability to recover for damage caused to a
497 person or property by a service animal. For the purposes of this
498 subsection, "disability" and "service animal" have the same meanings as
499 provided in section 22-345 and "place of public accommodation, resort
500 or amusement" has the same meaning as provided in section 46a-44.

501 (b) (1) The provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of
502 sex discrimination shall not apply to (A) the rental of sleeping
503 accommodations provided by associations and organizations which
504 rent all such sleeping accommodations on a temporary or permanent
505 basis for the exclusive use of persons of the same sex or (B) separate
506 bathrooms or locker rooms based on sex. (2) The provisions of this
507 section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of
508 age shall not apply to minors or to special discount or other public or
509 private programs to assist persons sixty years of age and older. (3) The
510 provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of
511 discrimination on the basis of physical disability shall not require any
512 person to modify his property in any way or provide a higher degree of
513 care for a physically disabled person, including, but not limited to blind
514 or deaf persons, than for a person not physically disabled. (4) The
515 provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of
516 discrimination on the basis of creed shall not apply to the practice of
517 granting preference in admission of residents into a nursing home as
518 defined in section 19a-490, if (A) the nursing home is owned, operated
519 by or affiliated with a religious organization, exempt from taxation for
520 federal income tax purposes and (B) the class of persons granted

521 preference in admission is consistent with the religious mission of the
522 nursing home. (5) The provisions of this section with respect to the
523 prohibition of discrimination on the basis of lawful source of income
524 shall not prohibit the denial of full and equal accommodations solely on
525 the basis of insufficient income.

526 [(c) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
527 guilty of a class D misdemeanor.]

528 (c) Nothing in section 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as
529 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as
530 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,
531 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to limit the meaning of any
532 discriminatory practice as described in this section.

533 Sec. 27. Section 46a-64c of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
534 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
535 *October 1, 2026*):

536 (a) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section:

537 (1) To refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, or to
538 refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make
539 unavailable or deny, a dwelling to any person because of race, creed,
540 color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression,
541 marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, status as a
542 veteran, status as a victim of domestic violence, status as a victim of
543 sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons.

544 (2) To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or
545 privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services
546 or facilities in connection therewith, because of race, creed, color,
547 national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, marital
548 status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, status as a veteran,
549 status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in
550 persons.

551 (3) To make, print or publish, or cause to be made, printed or

552 published any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the
553 sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation, or
554 discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex,
555 gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of
556 income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability,
557 status as a veteran, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a
558 victim of trafficking in persons, or an intention to make any such
559 preference, limitation or discrimination.

560 (4) (A) To represent to any person because of race, creed, color,
561 national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, marital
562 status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability,
563 physical or mental disability, status as a veteran, status as a victim of
564 sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons, that any
565 dwelling is not available for inspection, sale or rental when such
566 dwelling is in fact so available.

567 (B) It shall be a violation of this subdivision for any person to restrict
568 or attempt to restrict the choices of any buyer or renter to purchase or
569 rent a dwelling (i) to an area which is substantially populated, even if
570 less than a majority, by persons of the same protected class as the buyer
571 or renter, (ii) while such person is authorized to offer for sale or rent
572 another dwelling which meets the housing criteria as expressed by the
573 buyer or renter to such person, and (iii) such other dwelling is in an area
574 which is not substantially populated by persons of the same protected
575 class as the buyer or renter. As used in this subdivision, "area" means
576 municipality, neighborhood or other geographic subdivision which
577 may include an apartment or condominium complex; and "protected
578 class" means race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender
579 identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income,
580 familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, status
581 as a veteran, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of
582 trafficking in persons.

583 (5) For profit, to induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or rent
584 any dwelling by representations regarding the entry or prospective

585 entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race,
586 creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression,
587 marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning
588 disability, physical or mental disability, status as a veteran, status as a
589 victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in persons.

590 (6) (A) To discriminate in the sale or rental, or to otherwise make
591 unavailable or deny, a dwelling to any buyer or renter because of a
592 learning disability or physical or mental disability of: (i) Such buyer or
593 renter; (ii) a person residing in or intending to reside in such dwelling
594 after it is so sold, rented, or made available; or (iii) any person associated
595 with such buyer or renter.

596 (B) To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions or
597 privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services
598 or facilities in connection with such dwelling, because of a learning
599 disability or physical or mental disability of: (i) Such person; or (ii) a
600 person residing in or intending to reside in such dwelling after it is so
601 sold, rented, or made available; or (iii) any person associated with such
602 person.

603 (C) For purposes of this subdivision, discrimination includes: (i) A
604 refusal to permit, at the expense of a person with a physical or mental
605 disability, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to
606 be occupied by such person if such modifications may be necessary to
607 afford such person full enjoyment of the premises; except that, in the
608 case of a rental, the landlord may, where it is reasonable to do so,
609 condition permission for a modification on the renter agreeing to restore
610 the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the
611 modification, reasonable wear and tear excepted; (ii) a refusal to make
612 reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services,
613 when such accommodations may be necessary to afford such person
614 equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling; (iii) in connection with
615 the design and construction of covered multifamily dwellings for the
616 first occupancy after March 13, 1991, a failure to design and construct
617 those dwellings in such manner that they comply with the requirements

618 of Section 804(f) of the Fair Housing Act or the provisions of the state
619 building code as adopted pursuant to the provisions of sections 29-269
620 and 29-273, whichever requires greater accommodation. "Covered
621 multifamily dwellings" means buildings consisting of four or more units
622 if such buildings have one or more elevators, and ground floor units in
623 other buildings consisting of four or more units.

624 (7) For any person or other entity engaging in residential real-estate-
625 related transactions to discriminate against any person in making
626 available such a transaction, or in the terms or conditions of such a
627 transaction, because of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex,
628 gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of
629 income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability,
630 status as a veteran, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a
631 victim of trafficking in persons.

632 (8) To deny any person access to or membership or participation in
633 any multiple-listing service, real estate brokers' organization or other
634 service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or
635 renting dwellings, or to discriminate against him in the terms or
636 conditions of such access, membership or participation, on account of
637 race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or
638 expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status,
639 learning disability, physical or mental disability, status as a veteran,
640 status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a victim of trafficking in
641 persons.

642 (9) To coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any person in the
643 exercise or enjoyment of, or on account of his having exercised or
644 enjoyed, or on account of his having aided or encouraged any other
645 person in the exercise or enjoyment of, any right granted or protected
646 by this section.

647 (b) (1) The provisions of this section shall not apply to (A) the rental
648 of a room or rooms in a single-family dwelling unit if the owner actually
649 maintains and occupies part of such living quarters as his residence or
650 (B) a unit in a dwelling containing living quarters occupied or intended

651 to be occupied by no more than two families living independently of
652 each other, if the owner actually maintains and occupies the other such
653 living quarters as his residence. (2) The provisions of this section with
654 respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of marital status
655 shall not be construed to prohibit the denial of a dwelling to a man or a
656 woman who are both unrelated by blood and not married to each other.
657 (3) The provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of
658 discrimination on the basis of age shall not apply to minors, to special
659 discount or other public or private programs to assist persons sixty
660 years of age and older or to housing for older persons as defined in
661 section 46a-64b, provided there is no discrimination on the basis of age
662 among older persons eligible for such housing. (4) The provisions of this
663 section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of
664 familial status shall not apply to housing for older persons as defined in
665 section 46a-64b or to a unit in a dwelling containing units for no more
666 than four families living independently of each other, if the owner of
667 such dwelling resides in one of the units. (5) The provisions of this
668 section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of
669 lawful source of income shall not prohibit the denial of full and equal
670 accommodations solely on the basis of insufficient income. (6) The
671 provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of
672 discrimination on the basis of sex shall not apply to the rental of sleeping
673 accommodations to the extent they utilize shared bathroom facilities
674 when such sleeping accommodations are provided by associations and
675 organizations which rent such sleeping accommodations on a
676 temporary or permanent basis for the exclusive use of persons of the
677 same sex based on considerations of privacy and modesty.

678 (c) Nothing in this section limits the applicability of any reasonable
679 state statute or municipal ordinance restricting the maximum number
680 of persons permitted to occupy a dwelling.

681 (d) Nothing in this section or section 46a-64b shall be construed to
682 invalidate or limit any state statute or municipal ordinance that requires
683 dwellings to be designed and constructed in a manner that affords
684 persons with physical or mental disabilities greater access than is

685 required by this section or section 46a-64b.

686 (e) Nothing in this section prohibits a person engaged in the business
687 of furnishing appraisals of real property to take into consideration
688 factors other than race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex,
689 gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of
690 income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability,
691 status as a veteran, status as a victim of sexual assault or status as a
692 victim of trafficking in persons.

693 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, complaints
694 alleging a violation of this section shall be investigated within one
695 hundred days of filing and a final administrative disposition shall be
696 made within one year of filing unless it is impracticable to do so. If the
697 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities is unable to complete
698 its investigation or make a final administrative determination within
699 such time frames, it shall notify the complainant and the respondent in
700 writing of the reasons for not doing so.

701 [(g) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
702 guilty of a class D misdemeanor.]

703 (g) Nothing in section 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as
704 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as
705 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,
706 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to limit the meaning of any
707 discriminatory practice as described in this section.

708 Sec. 28. Section 46a-81d of the general statutes is repealed and the
709 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

710 (a) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section: (1)
711 To deny any person within the jurisdiction of this state full and equal
712 accommodations in any place of public accommodation, resort or
713 amusement because of such person's sexual orientation or civil union
714 status, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law
715 and applicable alike to all persons; or (2) to discriminate, segregate or

716 separate on account of sexual orientation or civil union status.

717 [(b) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
718 guilty of a class D misdemeanor.]

719 (b) Nothing in section 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as
720 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as
721 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,
722 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to limit the meaning of any
723 discriminatory practice as described in this section.

724 Sec. 29. Section 46a-81e of the general statutes is repealed and the
725 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

726 (a) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section:

727 (1) To refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, or to
728 refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make
729 unavailable or deny, a dwelling to any person because of sexual
730 orientation or civil union status.

731 (2) To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or
732 privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services
733 or facilities in connection therewith, because of sexual orientation or
734 civil union status.

735 (3) To make, print or publish, or cause to be made, printed or
736 published any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the
737 sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation, or
738 discrimination based on sexual orientation or civil union status, or an
739 intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

740 (4) (A) To represent to any person because of sexual orientation or
741 civil union status, that any dwelling is not available for inspection, sale
742 or rental when such dwelling is in fact so available. (B) It shall be a
743 violation of this subdivision for any person to restrict or attempt to
744 restrict the choices of any buyer or renter to purchase or rent a dwelling
745 (i) to an area which is substantially populated, even if less than a

746 majority, by persons of the same sexual orientation or civil union status
747 as the buyer or renter, (ii) while such person is authorized to offer for
748 sale or rent another dwelling which meets the housing criteria as
749 expressed by the buyer or renter to such person and (iii) such other
750 dwelling is in an area which is not substantially populated by persons
751 of the same sexual orientation or civil union status as the buyer or renter.
752 As used in this subdivision, "area" means municipality, neighborhood
753 or other geographic subdivision which may include an apartment or
754 condominium complex.

755 (5) For profit, to induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or rent
756 any dwelling by representations regarding the entry or prospective
757 entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular sexual
758 orientation or civil union status.

759 (6) For any person or other entity engaging in residential-real-estate-
760 related transactions to discriminate against any person in making
761 available such a transaction, or in the terms or conditions of such a
762 transaction, because of sexual orientation or civil union status.

763 (7) To deny any person access to or membership or participation in
764 any multiple-listing service, real estate brokers' organization or other
765 service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or
766 renting dwellings, or to discriminate against him in the terms or
767 conditions of such access, membership or participation, on account of
768 sexual orientation or civil union status.

769 (8) To coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any person in the
770 exercise or enjoyment of, or on account of his having exercised or
771 enjoyed, or on account of his having aided or encouraged any other
772 person in the exercise or enjoyment of, any right granted or protected
773 by this section.

774 (b) Nothing in this section limits the applicability of any reasonable
775 state statute or municipal ordinance restricting the maximum number
776 of persons permitted to occupy a dwelling.

777 (c) Nothing in this section prohibits a person engaged in the business
778 of furnishing appraisals of real property to take into consideration
779 factors other than sexual orientation or civil union status.

780 (d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, complaints
781 alleging a violation of this section shall be investigated within one
782 hundred days of filing and a final administrative disposition shall be
783 made within one year of filing unless it is impracticable to do so. If the
784 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities is unable to complete
785 its investigation or make a final administrative determination within
786 such time frames, it shall notify the complainant and the respondent in
787 writing of the reasons for not doing so.

788 [(e) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
789 guilty of a class D misdemeanor.]

790 (e) Nothing in section 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as
791 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as
792 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,
793 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to limit the meaning of any
794 discriminatory practice as described in this section.

795 Sec. 30. Section 53a-61aa of the general statutes is repealed and the
796 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

797 (a) A person is guilty of threatening in the first degree when such
798 person (1) (A) threatens to commit any crime involving the use of a
799 hazardous substance with the intent to terrorize another person, to
800 cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of public
801 transportation or otherwise to cause serious public inconvenience, or (B)
802 threatens to commit such crime in reckless disregard of the risk of
803 causing such terror, evacuation or inconvenience; (2) (A) threatens to
804 commit any crime of violence with the intent to cause evacuation of a
805 building, place of assembly or facility of public transportation or
806 otherwise to cause serious public inconvenience, or (B) threatens to
807 commit such crime in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such
808 evacuation or inconvenience; (3) commits threatening in the second

809 degree as provided in section 53a-62, as amended by this act, and in the
810 commission of such offense such person uses or is armed with and
811 threatens the use of or displays or represents by such person's words or
812 conduct that such person possesses a pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle,
813 machine gun or other firearm; or (4) violates subdivision (1) or (2) of this
814 subsection with the intent to cause an evacuation of a building or the
815 grounds of a (A) [house of religious worship, (B) religiously-affiliated
816 community center, (C)] public or nonpublic preschool, school or
817 institution of higher education, or [(D)] (B) day care center, as defined
818 in section 19a-87g, during operational, preschool, school or instructional
819 hours or when a building or the grounds of such [house of worship,
820 community center,] preschool, school, institution or day care center are
821 being used for the provision of religious or community services, or
822 [house of worship, community center,] preschool, school, institution or
823 day care center-sponsored activities. No person shall be found guilty of
824 threatening in the first degree under subdivision (3) of this subsection
825 and threatening in the second degree upon the same transaction but
826 such person may be charged and prosecuted for both such offenses
827 upon the same information.

828 (b) For the purposes of this section, "hazardous substance" means any
829 physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance or matter which,
830 because of its quantity, concentration or physical, chemical or infectious
831 characteristics, may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in
832 mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating
833 reversible illness, or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to
834 human health. [and "religiously-affiliated community center" means
835 real property used for the provision of recreational, social or educational
836 services that is owned or leased by a nonprofit organization that holds
837 such property out as being affiliated with an organized religion.]

838 (c) Threatening in the first degree is a class D felony, except that a
839 violation of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section is a class C
840 felony.

841 Sec. 31. Section 53a-62 of the general statutes is repealed and the

842 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

843 (a) A person is guilty of threatening in the second degree when: (1)
844 By physical threat, such person intentionally places or attempts to place
845 another person in fear of imminent serious physical injury, (2) (A) such
846 person threatens to commit any crime of violence with the intent to
847 terrorize another person, or (B) such person threatens to commit such
848 crime of violence in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror,
849 or (3) violates subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection and the person
850 threatened is in a building or on the grounds of a (A) [house of religious
851 worship, (B) religiously-affiliated community center, (C)] public or
852 nonpublic preschool, school or institution of higher education, or [(D)]
853 (B) day care center, as defined in section 19a-87g, during operational,
854 preschool, school or instructional hours or when a building or the
855 grounds of such [house of worship, community center,] preschool,
856 school, institution or day care center are being used for the provision of
857 religious or community services, or [house of worship, community
858 center,] preschool, school, institution or day care center-sponsored
859 activities.

860 [(b) For the purposes of this section, "religiously-affiliated
861 community center" has the same meaning as provided in section 53a-
862 61aa.]

863 [(c)] (b) Threatening in the second degree is a class A misdemeanor,
864 except that a violation of subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section
865 is a class D felony.

866 Sec. 32. Section 53a-180 of the general statutes is repealed and the
867 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

868 (a) A person is guilty of falsely reporting an incident in the first
869 degree when, knowing the information reported, conveyed or
870 circulated to be false or baseless, such person: (1) Initiates or circulates
871 a false report or warning of an alleged occurrence or impending
872 occurrence of a fire, explosion, catastrophe or emergency under
873 circumstances in which it is likely that public alarm or inconvenience

874 will result; (2) reports, by word or action, to any official or quasi-official
875 agency or organization having the function of dealing with emergencies
876 involving danger to life or property, an alleged occurrence or
877 impending occurrence of a fire, explosion or other catastrophe or
878 emergency which did not in fact occur or does not in fact exist; or (3)
879 violates subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection with intent to cause a
880 large scale emergency response. [; or (4) violates subdivision (1), (2) or
881 (3) of this subsection with specific intent to falsely report another person
882 or group of persons because of the actual or perceived race, religion,
883 ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or
884 expression of such other person or group of persons.] For purposes of
885 this section, "large scale emergency response" means an on-site response
886 to any such reported incident by five or more first responders, and "first
887 responder" means any peace officer or firefighter or any ambulance
888 driver, emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or
889 paramedic, as those terms are defined in section 19a-175.

890 (b) Falsely reporting an incident in the first degree is a [(1)] class D
891 felony. [for a violation of subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of
892 this section, or (2) class C felony for a violation of subdivision (4) of
893 subsection (a) of this section.]

894 (c) In addition to any sentence imposed pursuant to subsection (b) of
895 this section, if (1) a person is convicted of an offense in violation of
896 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section that resulted in a large
897 scale emergency response, (2) any agency or department of the state or
898 political subdivision of the state requests financial restitution for costs
899 associated with such emergency response, and (3) the court finds that
900 the agency or department of the state or political subdivision of the state
901 incurred costs associated with such emergency response as a result of
902 such offense, the court shall order the offender to make financial
903 restitution under terms that the court determines are appropriate. In
904 determining the appropriate terms of financial restitution, the court
905 shall consider: (A) The financial resources of the offender and the
906 burden restitution will place on other obligations of the offender; (B) the
907 offender's ability to pay based on installments or other conditions; (C)

908 the rehabilitative effect on the offender of the payment of restitution and
909 the method of payment; and (D) other circumstances, including the
910 financial burden and impact on the agency or department of the state or
911 political subdivision of the state, that the court determines make the
912 terms of restitution appropriate. If the court determines that the current
913 financial resources of the offender or the offender's current ability to pay
914 based on installments or other conditions are such that no appropriate
915 terms of restitution can be determined, the court may forego setting
916 such terms. The court shall articulate its findings on the record with
917 respect to each of the factors set forth in subparagraphs (A) to (D),
918 inclusive, of this subsection. Restitution ordered by the court pursuant
919 to this subsection shall be based on easily ascertainable damages for
920 actual expenses associated with such emergency response. Restitution
921 ordered by the court pursuant to this subsection shall be imposed or
922 directed by a written order of the court containing the amount of actual
923 expenses associated with such emergency response, as ascertained by
924 the court. The order of the court shall direct that a certified copy of the
925 order be delivered by certified mail to the agency or department of the
926 state or political subdivision of the state. Such order is enforceable in the
927 same manner as an order pursuant to subsection (c) of section 53a-28.

928 Sec. 33. Section 53a-180a of the general statutes is repealed and the
929 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

930 (a) A person is guilty of falsely reporting an incident resulting in
931 serious physical injury or death when such person commits the crime of
932 (1) falsely reporting an incident in the first degree as provided in
933 subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-180, as amended
934 by this act, or (2) falsely reporting an incident in the second degree as
935 provided in subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-
936 180c, as amended by this act, [or (3) falsely reporting an incident in the
937 first degree as provided in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section
938 53a-180 or falsely reporting an incident in the second degree as provided
939 in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 53a-180c,] and such false
940 report described in subdivision (1) [, or] (2) [or (3)] of this subsection
941 results in the serious physical injury or death of another person.

942 (b) Falsely reporting an incident resulting in serious physical injury
943 or death is a [(1)] class C felony. [for a violation of subdivision (1) or (2)
944 of subsection (a) of this section, or (2) class B felony for a violation of
945 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section.]

946 Sec. 34. Section 53a-180c of the general statutes is repealed and the
947 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

948 (a) A person is guilty of falsely reporting an incident in the second
949 degree when, knowing the information reported, conveyed or
950 circulated to be false or baseless, such person gratuitously reports to a
951 law enforcement officer or agency (1) the alleged occurrence of an
952 offense or incident which did not in fact occur, (2) an allegedly
953 impending occurrence of an offense or incident which in fact is not
954 about to occur, or (3) false information relating to an actual offense or
955 incident or to the alleged implication of some person therein. [, or (4)
956 violates subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection with specific intent
957 to falsely report another person or group of persons because of the
958 actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual
959 orientation or gender identity or expression of such other person or
960 group of persons.]

961 (b) Falsely reporting an incident in the second degree is a [(1)] class
962 A misdemeanor. [for a violation of subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of
963 subsection (a) of this section, or (2) class E felony for a violation of
964 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section.]

965 Sec. 35. Section 53a-180d of the general statutes is repealed and the
966 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

967 (a) A person is guilty of misuse of the emergency 9-1-1 system when
968 such person (1) dials or otherwise causes E 9-1-1 to be called for the
969 purpose of making a false alarm or complaint, or (2) purposely reports
970 false information which could result in the dispatch of emergency
971 services. [, or (3) violates subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection with
972 specific intent to make a false alarm or complaint or report false
973 information about another person or group of persons because of the

974 actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual
975 orientation or gender identity or expression of such other person or
976 group of persons.]

977 (b) Misuse of the emergency 9-1-1 system is a [(1)] class B
978 misdemeanor. [for a violation of subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a)
979 of this section, or (2) class A misdemeanor for a violation of subdivision
980 (3) of subsection (a) of this section.]

981 Sec. 36. Section 53a-181c of the general statutes is repealed and the
982 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

983 (a) A person is guilty of stalking in the first degree when such person
984 commits stalking in the second degree as provided in section 53a-181d,
985 and (1) such person has previously been convicted of a violation of
986 section 53a-181d, (2) such conduct violates a court order in effect at the
987 time of the offense, or (3) such person is twenty-two years of age or older
988 and the other person is under sixteen years of age. [, or (4) such person
989 intentionally directs such conduct at the other person, in whole or in
990 part, because of the actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity,
991 disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression of
992 such other person.]

993 (b) Stalking in the first degree is a class D felony.

994 Sec. 37. Section 52-571c of the general statutes is repealed and the
995 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

996 (a) Any person injured in person or property as a result of an act that
997 constitutes a violation of section 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-
998 181k or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or section 6, 7 or 10 of this act
999 may bring a civil action against the person who committed such act to
1000 recover damages for such injury.

1001 (b) In any civil action brought under this section in which the plaintiff
1002 prevails, the court shall award treble damages and may, in its discretion,
1003 award equitable relief and a reasonable attorney's fee.

1004 (c) No action shall be brought under this section but within three
1005 years from the date of the act complained of.

1006 Sec. 38. Section 3-129f of the general statutes is repealed and the
1007 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1008 (a) The Attorney General may investigate the facts and circumstances
1009 concerning any alleged violation of section [53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-
1010 181l] 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as amended by this act,
1011 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or
1012 section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, and
1013 in connection with such investigation, issue subpoenas and written
1014 interrogatories in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided
1015 in section 35-42. No information obtained pursuant to the provisions of
1016 this subsection may be used in a criminal proceeding.

1017 (b) If the Attorney General finds that a person has committed an act
1018 that constitutes a violation of section [53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l] 53-
1019 37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-181k,
1020 as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or section 5,
1021 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, the Attorney
1022 General may bring a civil action in the superior court for the judicial
1023 district in which such act occurred in the name of the state against such
1024 person.

1025 (c) In any such action, the Attorney General may obtain, for the
1026 benefit of a person adversely affected by a violation of section [53a-181j,
1027 53a-181k or 53a-181l] 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as
1028 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as
1029 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,
1030 19, 20 or 21 of this act, any relief to which such person may be entitled
1031 by law, including treble damages; a civil penalty not to exceed two
1032 thousand five hundred dollars, per violation, provided such violation
1033 has been established by clear and convincing evidence; and declaratory,
1034 injunctive or equitable relief that the Attorney General determines is
1035 necessary to vindicate the public's interests. Any civil penalty that is
1036 received pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in the General

1037 Fund.

1038 (d) Nothing in this section shall limit the right of a person adversely
1039 affected by a violation of section [53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l] 53-37,
1040 as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-181k, as
1041 amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or section 5, 6,
1042 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, to bring an
1043 action under section 52-571c, as amended by this act, or any other law
1044 that may entitle such person to relief, except that the Attorney General
1045 shall not bring an action under the provisions of this section during the
1046 pendency of a matter involving the same parties and the same alleged
1047 facts and circumstances before the Commission on Human Rights and
1048 Opportunities.

1049 (e) Nothing in this section shall permit the Attorney General to assert
1050 any claim against a state agency or a state officer or state employee in
1051 such officer's or employee's official capacity, regarding actions or
1052 omissions of such state agency, state officer or state employee. If the
1053 Attorney General determines that a state officer or state employee is not
1054 entitled to indemnification under section 5-141d, the Attorney General
1055 may, as it relates to such officer or employee, take any action authorized
1056 under this section.

1057 Sec. 39. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 29-7d of the
1058 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
1059 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1060 (1) Shall seek to prevent and detect any criminal activity or suspected
1061 criminal activity in the state that is a violation of section [46a-58,] 53-37,
1062 as amended by this act, 53-37a, 53-37b, [or 53a-61aa, subdivision (3) of
1063 subsection (a) of section 53a-62, subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of
1064 section 53a-181c, or section 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l] 53a-181j, as
1065 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as
1066 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,
1067 19, 20 or 21 of this act;

1068 Sec. 40. Subsection (a) of section 51-279f of the general statutes is

1069 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1070 *1, 2026*):

1071 (a) There shall be a State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council within
1072 the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, for administrative purposes
1073 only. Members of the council shall include (1) the following, or their
1074 designees: The Chief State's Attorney; the Chief Public Defender; the
1075 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection; the
1076 president of the Connecticut Bar Association; the president of the
1077 George W. Crawford Black Bar Association; the president of the South
1078 Asian Bar Association of Connecticut; the president of the Connecticut
1079 Asian Pacific American Bar Association; the president of the
1080 Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association; the director of the Institute for
1081 Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut; and
1082 the president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association; (2) the head
1083 of the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit, established pursuant to
1084 subsection (d) of section 29-4; and (3) no more than thirty appointed by
1085 the Governor who are representatives of organizations committed to
1086 decreasing hate crimes, improving diversity awareness or representing
1087 the interests of groups within the state protected by sections [53a-181j to
1088 53a-181l, inclusive] 53-37, as amended by this act, 53-37a, 53a-40a, as
1089 amended by this act, and sections 53a-181j to 53a-181l, inclusive, as
1090 amended by this act, and sections 5 to 13, inclusive, and 15 to 21,
1091 inclusive, of this act.

1092 Sec. 41. Subsection (a) of section 17a-210d of the general statutes is
1093 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1094 *1, 2026*):

1095 (a) (1) Wherever the words "the mentally retarded" are used in the
1096 following general statutes, "persons with intellectual disability" or
1097 "individuals with intellectual disability" shall be substituted in lieu
1098 thereof; (2) wherever the words "mentally retarded", "mentally retarded
1099 person" or "mentally retarded persons" are used in the following general
1100 statutes, the words "intellectual disability", "person with intellectual
1101 disability" or "persons with intellectual disability" shall be substituted

1102 in lieu thereof; and (3) wherever the words "mental retardation" are used
1103 in the following general statutes, the words "intellectual disability" shall
1104 be substituted in lieu thereof: 4a-60, 4b-31, 8-2g, 8-3e, 9-159s, 10-91f, 17a-
1105 593, 17a-594, 17a-596, 45a-598, 45a-669, 45a-672, 45a-676, 45a-677, 45a-
1106 678, 45a-679, 45a-680, 45a-681, 45a-682, 45a-683, 46a-51, 46a-60, 46a-64,
1107 as amended by this act, 46a-64b, 46a-66, 46a-70, 46a-71, 46a-72, 46a-73,
1108 46a-75, 46a-76, 46b-84, 52-146o, 53a-46a [, 53a-181i] and 54-250.

1109 Sec. 42. Subsection (c) of section 53a-13 of the general statutes is
1110 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1111 *1, 2026*):

1112 (c) As used in this section, (1) the terms mental disease or defect do
1113 not include (A) an abnormality manifested only by repeated criminal or
1114 otherwise antisocial conduct, or (B) pathological or compulsive
1115 gambling, and (2) "gender identity or expression" means gender identity
1116 or expression, as defined in section [53a-181i] 1-1n.

1117 Sec. 43. Section 53a-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1118 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

1119 In any prosecution for an offense, justification, as defined in sections
1120 53a-17 to 53a-23, inclusive, shall be a defense. Justification as a defense
1121 does not include provocation that resulted solely from the discovery of,
1122 knowledge about or potential disclosure of the victim's actual or
1123 perceived sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression,
1124 including under circumstances in which the victim made an unwanted,
1125 nonforcible, romantic or sexual advance toward the defendant, or if the
1126 defendant and victim dated or had a romantic relationship. As used in
1127 this section, "gender identity or expression" means gender identity or
1128 expression, as defined in section [53a-181i] 1-1n.

1129 Sec. 44. Subsection (a) of section 53a-30 of the general statutes is
1130 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1131 *1, 2026*):

1132 (a) When imposing sentence of probation or conditional discharge,

1133 the court may, as a condition of the sentence, order that the defendant:
1134 (1) Work faithfully at a suitable employment or faithfully pursue a
1135 course of study or of vocational training that will equip the defendant
1136 for suitable employment; (2) undergo medical or psychiatric treatment
1137 and remain in a specified institution, when required for that purpose;
1138 (3) support the defendant's dependents and meet other family
1139 obligations; (4) make restitution of the fruits of the defendant's offense
1140 or make restitution, in an amount the defendant can afford to pay or
1141 provide in a suitable manner, for the loss or damage caused thereby. The
1142 court or the Court Support Services Division, if authorized by the court,
1143 may fix the amount thereof and the manner of performance, and the
1144 victim shall be advised by the court or the Court Support Services
1145 Division that restitution ordered under this section may be enforced
1146 pursuant to section 53a-28a; (5) if a minor, (A) reside with the minor's
1147 parents or in a suitable foster home, (B) attend school, and (C) contribute
1148 to the minor's own support in any home or foster home; (6) post a bond
1149 or other security for the performance of any or all conditions imposed;
1150 (7) refrain from violating any criminal law of the United States, this state
1151 or any other state; (8) if convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony, other
1152 than a capital felony under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect
1153 prior to April 25, 2012, a class A felony or a violation of section 53a-70b
1154 of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or
1155 section 21a-278, 21a-278a, 53a-55, 53a-56, 53a-56b, 53a-57 or 53a-58 or
1156 any offense for which there is a mandatory minimum sentence which
1157 may not be suspended or reduced by the court, and any sentence of
1158 imprisonment is suspended, participate in an alternate incarceration
1159 program; (9) reside in a residential community center or halfway house
1160 approved by the Commissioner of Correction, and contribute to the cost
1161 incident to such residence; (10) participate in a program of community
1162 service labor in accordance with section 53a-39c; (11) participate in a
1163 program of community service in accordance with section 51-181c; (12)
1164 if convicted of a violation of section 53a-70b of the general statutes,
1165 revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or subdivision (2) of
1166 subsection (a) of section 53-21 or section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a
1167 or 53a-72b, undergo specialized sexual offender treatment; (13) if

1168 convicted of a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor, a
1169 nonviolent sexual offense or a sexually violent offense, as defined in
1170 section 54-250, or of a felony that the court finds was committed for a
1171 sexual purpose, as provided in section 54-254, register such person's
1172 identifying factors, as defined in section 54-250, with the Commissioner
1173 of Emergency Services and Public Protection when required pursuant
1174 to section 54-251, 54-252 or 54-253, as the case may be; (14) be subject to
1175 electronic monitoring, which may include the use of a global positioning
1176 system; (15) if convicted of a violation of section [46a-58] 53-37, as
1177 amended by this act, 53-37a, 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-181k,
1178 as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or section 5,
1179 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, participate in
1180 an anti-bias or diversity awareness program or participate in a program
1181 of community service designed to remedy damage caused by the
1182 commission of a [bias] hate crime or otherwise related to the defendant's
1183 violation; (16) if convicted of a violation of section 53-247, undergo
1184 psychiatric or psychological counseling or participate in an animal
1185 cruelty prevention and education program provided such a program
1186 exists and is available to the defendant; or (17) satisfy any other
1187 conditions reasonably related to the defendant's rehabilitation. The
1188 court shall cause a copy of any such order to be delivered to the
1189 defendant and to the probation officer, if any.

1190 Sec. 45. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Connecticut Sentencing
1191 Commission established pursuant to section 54-300 of the general
1192 statutes, in consultation with the State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory
1193 Council established pursuant to section 51-279f of the general statutes,
1194 as amended by this act, shall review the laws of this state concerning
1195 offenses that are hate crimes and the penalties associated with such
1196 offenses. Said commission and council, at a minimum, shall consider the
1197 (1) penalty structure, including the gradation of penalties and degrees
1198 of such offenses, (2) penalties of such offenses when compared with
1199 other offenses under this state's laws that are not hate crimes but
1200 otherwise have substantially similar elements to the elements of those
1201 offenses that are hate crimes, and (3) penalties of such offenses when
1202 compared with penalties of similar hate crimes offenses of other

1203 jurisdictions.

1204 (b) As part of said commission's and said council's review, the
 1205 commission and council shall determine whether the penalties for this
 1206 state's hate crimes are appropriate when reviewed pursuant to the
 1207 provisions of subsection (a) of this section. Not later than January 1,
 1208 2027, said commission shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
 1209 section 11-4a of the general statutes, the findings of such review and
 1210 recommendations for adjustments to this state's hate crimes penalties, if
 1211 any, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
 1212 cognizance of matters relating to the judiciary.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-181i
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-181j
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-181k
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-181l
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53-37
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 20	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-40a
Sec. 23	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	54-56e(d)
Sec. 24	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 25	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	46a-58

Sec. 26	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	46a-64
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	46a-64c
Sec. 28	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	46a-81d
Sec. 29	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	46a-81e
Sec. 30	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-61aa
Sec. 31	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-62
Sec. 32	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-180
Sec. 33	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-180a
Sec. 34	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-180c
Sec. 35	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-180d
Sec. 36	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-181c
Sec. 37	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	52-571c
Sec. 38	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	3-129f
Sec. 39	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	29-7d(a)(1)
Sec. 40	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	51-279f(a)
Sec. 41	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	17a-210d(a)
Sec. 42	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-13(c)
Sec. 43	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-16
Sec. 44	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	53a-30(a)
Sec. 45	<i>from passage</i>	New section

JUD *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Judicial Dept. (Probation); Correction, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Judicial Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	See Below	See Below
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

Sections 1 - 21 and 25 - 37 label certain crimes, ranging from class D misdemeanors to class B felonies, as hate crimes when motivated by a victim's protected social category, which results in a potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines. On average, the marginal cost to the state for incarcerating an offender for the year is \$3,300¹ while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600² each year for adults and \$450 each year for juveniles.

Section 22 extends persistent offender status to certain offenders who

¹ Inmate marginal cost is based on increased consumables (e.g., food, clothing, water, sewage, living supplies, etc.) This does not include a change in staffing costs or utility expenses because these would only be realized if a unit or facility opened.

² Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

commit a hate crime under the bill. The section also decreases the penalty for the persistent offender's crime of a class A misdemeanor to correspond with a class E felony instead of a class D felony. This section results in a net potential cost to the Department of Correction and the Judicial Department for incarceration or probation and a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines.

Sections 23 and 44 expand eligibility for the existing Hate Crimes Diversion program to include all hate crimes which results in a cost to the Judicial Department. The average cost per participant is approximately \$3,300. Between FY 20 and FY 25, a total of 35 participants were ordered to complete the program. This bill substantially increases the number of individuals who may be required to complete the program, and the actual annual cost depends upon the number of crimes committed and judicial discretion to refer to the program.

Section 38 expands the Office of Attorney General's (OAG) authority to investigate hate crimes resulting in a potential revenue gain to the state depending on the number of hate crimes committed. The OAG can issue a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 per hate crime.

All remaining sections result in no fiscal impact to the state as the affected agencies have the resources and capacity to meet the bill's requirements.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, number of hate crimes committed, and the number of participants referred to the Hate Crimes Diversion program.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 90****AN ACT REVISING AND CONSOLIDATING THE HATE CRIMES STATUTES.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Generally, combines the various classes protected against crimes motivated by bias under current law into one protected social category for hate crimes under the bill; establishes definitions for some of the protected categories

§§ 1-21 & 25-37 — HATE CRIMES

Labels as specific hate crimes (1) certain crimes under current law that are penalized as a hate crime if based on bigotry or bias, (2) crimes with enhanced penalties if motivated by bias, and (3) certain discriminatory practices under current law

Extends persistent offender status to certain offenders who commit a hate crime under the bill or whose crime was designated a hate crime by a sentencing judge

Allows a court to require a hate crime offender for any hate crime under the bill to participate in a hate crimes diversion program as a condition of probation under the existing accelerated rehabilitation program

Specifies that its provisions do not limit (1) someone's rights to file a discrimination complaint with CHRO, (2) CHRO's jurisdiction and power, or (3) the court's authority

The bill extends the attorney general's authority to investigate hate crimes, initiate legal action, and seek relief to apply to all hate crimes under the bill

Expands the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit's duties to prevent and detect criminal activity involving hate crimes to apply to all hate crimes under the bill

Expands the Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council membership by adding the director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at UConn; requires the governor's appointees to also be representative of the people protected by the bill's hate crimes

Makes minor, technical, and conforming changes

Allows the court to require offenders of any of the hate crimes under the bill participate in certain anti-bias programs as a condition of probation or conditional discharge

Requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission, in consultation with the State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council, to review Connecticut's hate crime laws to determine appropriateness of the penalties and to report the findings and recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 2027

SUMMARY

This bill makes several changes consolidating all the various hate crimes under current law. A section-by-section analysis appears below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026, except the provision on the Sentencing Commission's hate crime and penalties review is effective on passage.

§ 1 — PROTECTED SOCIAL CATEGORY

Generally, combines the various classes protected against crimes motivated by bias under current law into one protected social category for hate crimes under the bill; establishes definitions for some of the protected categories

Existing law protects various classes of people against certain crimes motivated by bias based on the victim's protected class. The bill generally combines the various protected classes under current law into one protected social category under the bill's various hate crime laws. Under the bill, a "protected social category" is a person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, ethnicity, disability, alienage, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, (if 60 or over), or any combination of these attributes.

In doing so, in some instances, the bill adds color, alienage, national origin, and age as protected categories for some hate crimes, as specified below.

Defined Terms

The bill defines the protected social categories as shown below.

“Disability” means any intellectual, mental, or physical disability or blindness. (Under the bill, someone is blind if their central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye with correcting lenses, or if their visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but has a limitation in the fields of vision so that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angle that is twenty degrees or less.)

“Gender identity or expression” means a person’s gender-related identity, appearance, or behavior, whether or not it is different from that traditionally associated with the person’s physiology or assigned sex at birth. The gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence such as medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity, or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person’s core identity, or not being asserted for an improper purpose.

“Race” includes ethnic traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles (for example, wigs or headwraps).

“Religion” includes denomination, creed, and any aspect of religious observance and practice as well as belief.

“Sex” includes pregnancy, child-bearing capacity, sterilization, fertility, or related medical conditions.

“Sexual orientation” means a person’s identity in relation to the gender or genders to which they are romantically, emotionally, or sexually attracted, including any identity that a person (1) may have previously expressed, or (2) is perceived by another person to hold.

Background — Related Bill

HB 5557, favorably reported by the Human Services Committee, changes the statutory definition of “intellectual disability” from an IQ-based definition to one from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5).

§§ 1-21 & 25-37 — HATE CRIMES

Labels as specific hate crimes (1) certain crimes under current law that are penalized as a hate crime if based on bigotry or bias, (2) crimes with enhanced penalties if motivated by bias, and (3) certain discriminatory practices under current law

The bill specifically labels as a hate crime, certain crimes under current law that, when motivated by bias against the victim's protected social category, are penalized as hate crimes depending on the offender's actions and the harm that resulted.

Physical Injury, Physical Contact, Affecting Property, Advocacy or Urging (§§ 2-4, 6, 7, 10 & 37)

The bill labels current law's intimidation crimes that are based on bigotry or bias as specific hate crimes as shown in the table below. Al so, under the bill, for some of these crimes the offender must have acted intentionally rather than maliciously, where applicable.

Table: Intimidation Crimes Based on Bigotry or Bias

Crime Label Under Current Law	Crime Label Under the Bill	Penalties (Under the bill)
1st degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime causing physical injury (§ 2)	Class C Felony (Minimum fine of \$3,000)
2nd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime causing physical contact (§ 3)	Class D felony (Minimum fine of \$1,000)
2nd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime by threat of physical contact (§ 6)	Class D felony (Minimum fine of \$1,000)
3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime affecting property (§ 4)	Class D felony or Class E felony (Minimum fine of \$1,000)
3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime by threat to property (§ 7)	Class D felony or Class E felony (Minimum fine of \$1,000)
3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias	Hate crime by advocacy or urging (§ 10)	Class E felony (Minimum fine of \$1,000)

As under current law, for the bill's newly labeled crimes, the judge must state on the record any reason to remit or reduce the fine shown in

the table above.

(By law, a class C felony is punishable by a fine up to \$10,000, one to 10 years in prison, or both. A class D felony is punishable by a fine up to \$5,000, up to five years in prison, or both. A class E felony is punishable by a fine up to \$3,500, up to three years in prison, or both.)

Under current law, these crimes address certain actions that intimidate or harass another person and are motivated, in whole or in substantial part by the person's actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. The bill's new protected social category expands these hate crimes to include those actions that are motivated in whole or in substantial part by the person's actual or perceived age, color, alienage, and national origin.

Hate Crime Causing Physical Injury. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a "hate crime causing physical injury" when he or she acts with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person, motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person's protected social category, and intentionally causes that person or another person physical injury.

Under current law, this is punishable as 1st degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias if the person acted maliciously. Under the bill and current law, this is a class C felony, with a \$3,000 mandatory minimum fine.

Hate Crime Causing Physical Contact. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a "hate crime causing physical contact" when he or she acts with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person, motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person's protected social category, and intentionally causes physical contact with him or her.

Current law penalizes this behavior as 2nd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias if done maliciously. Under the bill, and current law, this is a class D felony, with a \$1,000 mandatory minimum fine.

Hate Crime by Threat of Physical Contact. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by threat of physical contact” when he or she, with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person, motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category, threatens, by word or act, to cause physical contact with the other person, if there is reasonable cause to believe that the act will occur.

Under current law, this is another form of 2nd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias if done maliciously. Under the bill and current law, this is a class D felony, with a \$1,000 mandatory minimum fine.

Hate Crime Affecting Property. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a “hate crime affecting property” when he or she acts with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person, motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category, and (1) intentionally damages, destroys, or defaces the other person’s real or personal property or (2) damages, destroys, or defaces a third person’s real or personal property.

Under current law, this is punishable as 3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias, a class E felony with a \$1,000 mandatory minimum fine. The bill increases the penalty to a class D felony with the mandatory minimum fine when the offender intentionally damages the victim’s property. It maintains the E felony penalty, with the mandatory minimum fine, when the offender’s actions damage a third person’s property.

Hate Crime by Threat to Property. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by threat to property” when he or she, with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person, motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category, threatens, by word or act, to damage, destroy or deface any real or personal property of (1) the other person, if there is reasonable cause to believe that it will happen, or (2) a third person, if there is reasonable cause to believe that it will happen.

Under current law, this is punishable as 3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias, a class E felony with a \$1,000 mandatory minimum fine. The bill increases the penalty to a class D felony, with the mandatory minimum fine, when the victim's property is threatened. It maintains the E felony penalty, with the mandatory minimum fine, when the threat involves a third person's property.

Hate Crime by Advocacy or Urging. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a hate crime by advocacy or urging if he or she, with specific intent to intimidate or harass another person, motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person's protected social category, advocates or urges another person to damage, destroy, or deface any real or personal property of a third person, if there is reasonable cause to believe that it will happen.

Under current law, this is punishable as 3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias. Under the bill and current law, this is a class E felony with a \$1,000 mandatory minimum fine.

Civil Action for Damages. By law, a person alleging injury ("the injured party") due to the crimes listed above can sue for damages for his or her injury. The court must award triple damages if the injured party prevails and may award equitable relief and reasonable attorney's fees. The injured party must file the lawsuit within three years of the alleged acts. The bill makes conforming changes to apply this provision to the newly labeled hate crimes under this category of crimes.

Hate Crime Affecting a House of Religious Worship (§§ 5 & 25)

Under the bill, it is a "hate crime affecting a house of religious worship" for a person, having no reasonable ground to believe that he or she has a right to do so, intentionally damages, destroys, or defaces any house of religious worship.

The bill applies to this crime the same penalties as current law's penalties for desecrating a house of religious worship. Under the bill, a hate crime affecting a house of religious worship is a:

1. class D felony, with a \$1,000 minimum fine if the property damage is \$10,000 or less, or
2. class C felony, with a \$3,000 minimum fine if the property damage is more than \$10,000.

Under the bill, “desecrating a house of worship” remains a discriminatory practice, but without a specific penalty.

Threatening a House of Religious Worship or Religiously-Affiliated Community Center (§§ 8, 9, 30 & 31)

Under current law, the penalties for the crimes of 1st and 2nd degree threatening are enhanced to a class C and class D felony, respectively, if the elements of the underlying crime are met and the threat has certain intended effects during certain times of the day (for example, to cause the evacuation of a house of religious worship) or involves certain buildings (for example, a religiously-affiliated community center).

The bill classifies these enhanced penalties as two hate crime-specific threatening crimes but maintains current law’s elements and penalties. The bill specifically labels these crimes as:

1. hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously-affiliated community center in the first degree, a class C felony, and
2. hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously-affiliated community center in the second degree, a class D felony.

Under the bill, a “religiously-affiliated community center” is real property (1) used for recreational, social, or educational services and (2) owned or leased by a nonprofit organization that holds the property out as being affiliated with a religion. Unlike current law, the bill does not specify that the affiliation is with an organized religion.

1st Degree. Under the bill a person is guilty of a “hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously-affiliated

community center in the first degree” if the person commits 1st degree threatening (see below) with the intent to cause an evacuation of a building or the grounds of a house of religious worship or religiously-affiliated community center, during operational hours or when the building or grounds are being used for religious or community services, or used for activities sponsored by the house of worship or community center. Under current law and the bill, this is a class C felony.

By law, 1st degree threatening includes threatening to commit a violent crime or a crime using a hazardous substance with intent to cause, or with reckless disregard of the risk of causing (1) evacuation of a building, place of assembly, or public transportation facility; (2) serious public inconvenience; or (3) for hazardous substance crimes, a person to be terrorized (CGS § 53a-61aa).

2nd Degree. Under the bill a person is guilty of a “hate crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously-affiliated community center in the second degree” if the person commits 2nd degree threatening (see below) and the person threatened is in a building or on the grounds during operational hours or when they are being used for religious or community services, or for activities sponsored by the house of worship or community center. Under current law and the bill, this is a class D felony.

By law, 2nd degree threatening consists of (1) intentionally causing, or attempting to cause, someone to fear imminent serious physical injury by physical threat or (2) threatening to commit a violent crime with intent to terrorize someone or with reckless disregard for the risk of doing so (CGS § 53a-62).

Deprivation of Rights and Placing Burning Cross or Noose on Property (§§ 11-13 & 25)

The bill specifically labels as hate crimes, certain violations of the human rights statutes that are punished as crimes under current law. In some instances, certain protected classes under existing law are not considered a protected social category for the bill’s hate crimes. The bill also makes a slight change to some of the penalties, as summarized

below.

Hate Crime by Deprivation of Civil Rights. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by deprivation of civil rights” when he or she subjects, or causes to be subjected, any other person to the deprivation of any legally guaranteed rights, privileges, or immunities, secured or protected by state or federal laws or by the Connecticut or U.S. constitutions, motivated in whole or in substantial part by any protected social category of the other person or another person.

This is already a crime under existing law; the bill specifically labels it as a hate crime. Current law also includes as protected classes for this crime, a person’s status as a veteran, or a victim of domestic violence, domestic sexual assault, or human trafficking; however, the bill does not include them as a protected social category. Similarly, current law has age as a protected class but the bill limits age as a protected social category to people aged 60 or older. So, under the bill, acts motivated by the victim’s status as a veteran, domestic violence victim, sexual assault victim, human trafficking victim, or age are not hate crimes and do not have a specific penalty, though these remain discriminatory practices under existing law.

Hate Crime by Burning a Cross. Under existing law and the bill, it is a crime to place a burning cross or simulation of one on public property, or on private property without the owner’s written consent, with the intent to intimidate or harass another person. The bill labels this crime “hate crime by burning a cross.”

Hate Crime by Noose. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by noose” if he or she places a noose or simulation of one on public property, or on private property without the owner’s written consent, with the intent to harass someone motivated in whole or in substantial part by any protected social category of the other person or another person.

This is already a crime under existing law; the bill specifically labels it as a hate crime. Current law also includes as protected classes for this

crime a person's status as a veteran, or a victim of domestic violence, domestic sexual assault, or human trafficking; however, the bill does not include them as a protected social category. Similarly, current law has age as a protected class but the bill limits age as a protected social category to people aged 60 or older. So, under the bill, acts motivated by the victim's status as a veteran, domestic violence victim, sexual assault victim, human trafficking victim, or age are not hate crimes and do not have a specific penalty, though these remain discriminatory practices under existing law.

Penalties. Under the bill, the offenses described above are class A misdemeanors, but it is a class E felony if the act results in more than \$1,000 of property damage. Under current law this crime is also a class A misdemeanor, however, if the damages are more than \$1,000, it is a class D felony. Both the bill and existing law impose a minimum fine of \$1,000 whether the crime is a misdemeanor or a felony.

Commercial Advertisement (§ 14)

It is a class D misdemeanor under current law for anyone by advertisement to ridicule or hold up to contempt anyone or class of people based on their creed, religion, color, denomination, nationality, or race.

The bill labels this crime "hate crime by commercial advertisement" if motivated in whole or in substantial part by any protected social category. By doing so, the bill includes disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, alienage, and age as additional protected categories. As under current law and under the bill this is a class D misdemeanor.

The bill specifies that for this provision, "advertisement" only includes commercial speech.

Housing and Public Accommodations (§§ 15, 16 & 26-29)

The bill labels as specific hate crimes, certain discriminatory housing and public accommodations practices that are illegal under current law. As under current law, under the bill these crimes are class D

misdemeanors punishable by a fine up to \$250, up to 30 days in prison, or both.

The bill also specifies that it must not be construed to limit the meaning of any discriminatory practice as described in the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) antidiscrimination statutes.

The protected classes under the antidiscrimination statutes generally include race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income, intellectual disability, mental disability, physical disability, including, blindness or deafness, status as a veteran, or status as a domestic violence victim, sexual assault victim, or human trafficking victim.

Hate Crime by Discriminatory Public Accommodations Practice.

Under the bill, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by discriminatory public accommodations practice” if he or she commits any discriminatory public accommodation practice, such as denying someone full and equal accommodations based on a protected class status.

Hate Crime by Discriminatory Housing Practice. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by discriminatory housing practice” if he or she engages in any discriminatory housing practice, such as refusing to sell or rent a dwelling to someone based on a protected class status.

False Reporting (§§ 17-19 & 32-34)

Current law enhances the penalties for (1) falsely reporting an incident in the 1st degree; (2) falsely reporting an incident resulting in serious physical injury or death; and (3) falsely reporting an incident in the 2nd degree under circumstances when the false report is done with specific intent to falsely report another person or group of people because of their actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

The bill specifically labels the crimes subject to enhanced penalties as hate crimes as described below, and adds alienage, national origin, color, and age, as protected social categories.

Hate Crime by False Report. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by false report” if he or she commits certain elements of falsely reporting an incident in the 1st degree (see below), with specific intent to falsely report another person motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category. Under the bill, as under existing law, this is a class C felony.

By law, and the bill, a person commits falsely reporting an incident in the 1st degree when, knowing the information reported, conveyed, or circulated to be false or baseless, he or she:

1. starts or circulates a false report or warning about an alleged or impending fire, explosion, catastrophe, or emergency under circumstances in which it is likely that public alarm or inconvenience will result;
2. reports, by word or action, to any official or quasi-official agency or organization that deals with emergencies involving danger to life or property, an alleged or impending fire, explosion, or other catastrophe or emergency that did not happen or does not exist; or
3. violates (1) or (2) above with intent to cause a large scale emergency response (CGS § 53a-180).

Hate Crime by False Report to Law Enforcement. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by false report to law enforcement” if he or she falsely reports an incident to a law enforcement officer or agency by committing falsely reporting an incident in the 2nd degree, with specific intent to falsely report another person motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person’s protected social category of the other person. As under existing law, under the bill this is a class E felony.

By law, and under the bill, a person can commit falsely reporting an incident in the 2nd degree when, knowing the information reported, conveyed, or circulated to be false or baseless, he or she gratuitously reports to a law enforcement officer or agency (1) an alleged offense or incident that did not happen, (2) an allegedly impending offense or incident that is not about to happen, or (3) false information about an actual offense or incident or the alleged implication of the person in the report (CGS § 53a-180c).

Hate Crime by False Report Resulting in Serious Physical Injury or Death. Under the bill, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by false report resulting in serious physical injury or death” if either of the crimes above and the false report results in another person’s serious physical injury or death. Under the bill, as under existing law, this is a class B felony.

Hate Crime by Stalking (§§ 20 & 36)

Under the bill, a person is guilty of a “hate crime by stalking” if he or she commits 2nd degree stalking (see below) and intentionally directs the conduct at the other person motivated in whole or in part by the other person’s protected social category.

Under current law, this is punishable as 1st degree stalking when the conduct is intentionally directed at the other person, in whole or in part, because of the that person’s actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

The bill labels this crime “hate crime by stalking” and adds alienage, national origin, color, and age, if age 60 or older, as protected social categories. As under existing law, this is a class D felony.

2nd Degree Stalking. By law, someone commits 2nd degree stalking when he or she:

1. knowingly engages in conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to (a) fear for his or her, or a third person’s, physical safety; (b) suffer emotional distress; or (c)

fear injury to or the death of an animal owned by or in possession and control of the specific person;

2. has already been asked to stop and intentionally, and for no legitimate purpose, with intent to harass, terrorize, or alarm, engages in conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to fear that his or her employment, business, or career is threatened; or
3. for no legitimate purpose and with intent to harass, terrorize, or alarm, by means of electronic communication, discloses a specific person's personally identifiable information without the person's consent, knowing, that under the circumstances, the disclosure would cause a reasonable person to suffer emotional stress or fear for their physical safety or that of a third person (CGS § 53a-181d).

Misuse of the Emergency 9-1-1 System (§§ 21 & 35)

Under current law, a person is guilty of misuse of the emergency 9-1-1 system when he or she (1) dials or otherwise causes E 9-1-1 to be called to make a false alarm or complaint; (2) purposely reports false information that could result in dispatching emergency services; or (3) does either of these actions with specific intent to make a false alarm or complaint or report false information about another person or group of people because of their actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

The bill instead relabels the crime's bias-motivated component ((3) above) as "hate crime by misuse of emergency 9-1-1 system" and makes a person guilty of it if he or she misuses the system as described above, with specific intent to make a false alarm or complaint or report false information about another person motivated in whole or in substantial part by the other person's protected social category.

Under the bill, as under existing law, this is a class A misdemeanor.

§ 22 — PERSISTENT OFFENDER

Extends persistent offender status to certain offenders who commit a hate crime under the bill or whose crime was designated a hate crime by a sentencing judge

Under current law, when a court finds that someone is a persistent offender of a crime involving bigotry or bias, it must (1) for a felony, impose the prison sentence authorized for the next more serious degree of felony or (2) for a misdemeanor, impose the prison sentence authorized for the next more serious misdemeanor, except if the persistent offense is a class A misdemeanor the court must impose the prison sentence for a class D felony. Under the bill, for a persistent offender of a hate crime that is a class A misdemeanor, the court must impose the prison sentence for a class E felony instead.

Under current law, a persistent offender of crimes involving bigotry or bias is a person convicted of any of the following crimes after having been previously convicted of one of them: (1) intimidation based on bigotry or bias; (2) deprivation of rights, desecration of property, cross burning, or placing a noose; or (3) deprivation of rights by a person wearing a mask or hood.

Under the bill a person is a persistent offender of a hate crime if he or she:

1. is convicted of any of the hate crimes under the bill and
2. was previously convicted of any of the bill's hate crimes in effect before October 1, 2026.

§ 23 — ACCELERATED PRETRIAL REHABILITATION

Allows a court to require a hate crime offender for any hate crime under the bill to participate in a hate crimes diversion program as a condition of probation under the existing accelerated rehabilitation program

By law, a court can require an offender to participate in a hate crimes diversion program as a condition of probation under accelerated rehabilitation (AR).

Under current law, this applies to people charged with (1) deprivation of rights, desecration of property, cross burning, and placing a noose; (2) deprivation of a person's civil rights by a person

wearing a mask or hood; or (3) intimidation based on bigotry or bias. The bill expands this to include all the hate crimes under the bill.

§ 24 — CHRO’S JURISDICTION AND COURT’S AUTHORITY

Specifies that its provisions do not limit (1) someone’s rights to file a discrimination complaint with CHRO, (2) CHRO’s jurisdiction and power, or (3) the court’s authority

The bill specifies that its hate crimes provisions should not be construed to:

1. limit the rights of someone claiming to be aggrieved by a discriminatory practice to file a complaint with CHRO or to bring a civil action in Superior Court,
2. limit CHRO’s and the attorney general’s jurisdiction and powers, or
3. affect the court’s authority to order financial restitution.

§ 38 — ATTORNEY GENERAL’S AUTHORITY

The bill extends the attorney general’s authority to investigate hate crimes, initiate legal action, and seek relief to apply to all hate crimes under the bill

By law, the attorney general’s powers include (1) investigating allegations of certain hate crimes and civil rights violations; (2) initiating related legal proceedings, with certain exceptions; and (3) seeking relief for the affected person. Under the law, when conducting investigations, the attorney general may issue subpoenas and interrogatories consistent with how he investigates Connecticut Antitrust Act violations. But the law prohibits information obtained from these investigations from being used in a criminal proceeding. The attorney general is generally prohibited from asserting a claim against a state agency, officer, or employee acting in an official capacity.

Under current law, the above authorities and prohibitions apply to allegations of certain hate crimes (for example, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias) and civil rights violations. The bill extends the attorney general’s authority to all hate crimes under the bill and makes conforming changes.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, imposes a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 for each hate crime or civil rights violation established by clear and convincing evidence (CGS §§ 3-129f & -129g).

§ 39 — HATE CRIMES INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

Expands the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit's duties to prevent and detect criminal activity involving hate crimes to apply to all hate crimes under the bill

By law, there is a Hate Crimes Investigative Unit within the State Police to seek to prevent and detect actual or suspected criminal activity involving (1) deprivation of rights or desecration of property; (2) certain ridiculing, threatening, and stalking actions; and (3) intimidation based on bigotry or bias. The bill expands the unit's duties to cover all the hate crimes under the bill and makes conforming changes.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, the unit must compile, monitor, and analyze data about these criminal activities. It must also share data and information with other law enforcement units to help with their investigations of the criminal activities listed above, and it may provide additional help with those investigations (CGS § 29-7d(a)).

§ 40 — STATE-WIDE HATE CRIMES ADVISORY COUNCIL

Expands the Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council membership by adding the director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at UConn; requires the governor's appointees to also be representative of the people protected by the bill's hate crimes

By law, the Statewide Hate Crimes Advisory Council was created to encourage and coordinate programs to increase community awareness, reporting, and combating of hate crimes. The council is within the Office of the Chief State's Attorney for administrative purposes only.

The bill expands the council's membership by adding the director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at UConn. Current law allows the governor to appoint 30 representatives of organizations committed to decreasing hate crimes, improving diversity, or representing the interest of groups within the state protected by the laws on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias. The bill also requires the governor's appointees to be committed to representing the interest of groups within the state protected by all the

crimes the bill labels as hate crimes.

§§ 41-43 — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Makes minor, technical, and conforming changes

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes for consistency in references to the terms “intellectual disability” and “gender identity or expression.”

§ 44 — PROBATION OR CONDITIONAL DISCHARGE

Allows the court to require offenders of any of the hate crimes under the bill participate in certain anti-bias programs as a condition of probation or conditional discharge

Under current law, a court, as a condition of probation or conditional discharge, may require an offender to participate in certain programs if he or she is convicted of (1) intimidation based on bigotry or bias, (2) deprivation of rights or property (including through cross burning or placing a noose on property), or (3) deprivation of someone’s civil rights by a person wearing a mask or hood. The bill expands this to conviction for all the hate crimes under the bill.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, the court may require the offender to participate in (1) an anti-bias or diversity awareness program or (2) a community service program designed to remedy the damage caused by committing a bias crime or otherwise related to the defendant’s violation.

§ 45 — SENTENCING COMMISSION’S REVIEW OF HATE CRIME PENALTIES

Requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission, in consultation with the State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council, to review Connecticut’s hate crime laws to determine appropriateness of the penalties and to report the findings and recommendations to the legislature by January 1, 2027

Review of Penalty Structure and Comparison to Other Laws

The bill requires the Connecticut Sentencing Commission, in consultation with the State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council, to review Connecticut’s hate crime laws and the associated penalties.

The commission and council must determine whether the penalties for Connecticut’s hate crimes are appropriate by considering at least the

following:

1. penalty structure, including the gradation of penalties and degrees of the offenses,
2. penalties of hate crimes offenses compared to penalties of other offenses in Connecticut that are not hate crimes but have substantially similar elements, and
3. penalties in Connecticut compared with those for similar hate crimes offenses in other jurisdictions.

Report to the Legislature

By January 1, 2027, the commission must report, findings and any recommendations for adjustments to Connecticut's hate crimes penalties to the Judiciary Committee.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 39 Nay 2 (03/23/2026)