



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 763**

January Session, 2025

Substitute House Bill No. 6872

*House of Representatives, April 24, 2025*

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, 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 Section 53a-181i of the general statutes is repealed and the  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, 2025*):

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, sections  
7 15 to 21, inclusive, of this act, and section 23 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, 2025*):

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, 2025*):

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, 2025*):

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, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
111 crime affecting religious property when such person, having no  
112 reasonable ground to believe that such person has a right to do so,  
113 intentionally damages, destroys or defaces (1) any religious object or  
114 symbol, or (2) any house of religious worship.

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

123 (c) A violation of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall  
124 be a (1) class D felony, for which the court shall impose a fine of not less  
125 than one thousand dollars if property is damaged as a consequence of  
126 such violation in an amount up to and including ten thousand dollars,  
127 or (2) class C felony, for which the court shall impose a fine of not less  
128 than three thousand dollars if the property damaged as a consequence  
129 of such violation is in an amount in excess of ten thousand dollars.

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

133 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
134 crime by threat of physical contact when such person, with specific  
135 intent to intimidate or harass another person motivated in whole or in

136 substantial part by any protected social category of such other person,  
137 threatens, by word or act, to cause physical contact with such other  
138 person, if there is reasonable cause to believe that such an act will occur.

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

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

144 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
145 crime by threat to property when such person, with specific intent to  
146 intimidate or harass another person motivated in whole or in substantial  
147 part by any protected social category of such other person threatens, by  
148 word or act, to damage, destroy or deface any real or personal property  
149 of (1) such other person, if there is reasonable cause to believe that such  
150 an act will occur, or (2) a third person, if there is reasonable cause to  
151 believe that such an act will occur.

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

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

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

161 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
162 crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously  
163 affiliated community center in the first degree if such person acts in  
164 violation of subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-61aa of  
165 the general statutes, as amended by this act, with the intent to cause an  
166 evacuation of a building or the grounds of a house of religious worship

167 or religiously affiliated community center, during operational hours or  
168 when a building or the grounds of such house of worship or community  
169 center are being used for the provision of religious or community  
170 services, or used for activities sponsored by such house of worship or  
171 community center.

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

175 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
176 crime by threatening of a house of religious worship or religiously  
177 affiliated community center in the second degree if such person acts in  
178 violation of subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 53a-62 of  
179 the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the person threatened  
180 is in a building or on the grounds of a house of religious worship or  
181 religiously affiliated community center, during operational hours or  
182 when a building or the grounds of such house of worship or community  
183 center are being used for the provision of religious or community  
184 services, or used for activities sponsored by such house of worship or  
185 community center.

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

189 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
190 crime by advocacy or urging if such person, with specific intent to  
191 intimidate or harass another person motivated in whole or in substantial  
192 part by any protected social category of such other person, advocates or  
193 urges another person to damage, destroy or deface any real or personal  
194 property of a third person, if there is reasonable cause to believe that  
195 such an act will occur.

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

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

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

204 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
205 crime by deprivation of civil rights when such person subjects, or causes  
206 to be subjected, any other person to the deprivation of any rights,  
207 privileges or immunities, secured or protected by the Constitution or  
208 laws of this state or of the United States, motivated in whole or in  
209 substantial part by any protected social category of such other person or  
210 another person.

211 (b) Hate crime by deprivation of civil rights is a (1) class A  
212 misdemeanor, for which the court shall impose a fine of not less than  
213 one thousand dollars, or (2) a class E felony, for which the court shall  
214 impose a fine of not less than one thousand dollars if property is  
215 damaged as a consequence of such violation in an amount in excess of  
216 one thousand dollars.

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

220 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
221 crime by burning a cross if such person places a burning cross or a  
222 simulation of a burning cross on any public property, or on any private  
223 property without the written consent of the owner, and with intent to  
224 intimidate or harass any other person.

225 (b) Hate crime by burning a cross is a (1) class A misdemeanor, for  
226 which the court shall impose a fine of not less than one thousand dollars,  
227 or (2) class E felony, for which the court shall impose a fine of not less  
228 than one thousand dollars if property is damaged as a consequence of



229 such violation in an amount in excess of one thousand dollars.

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

233 Sec. 13. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
234 crime by noose if such person places a noose or a simulation of a noose  
235 on any public property, or on any private property without the written  
236 consent of the owner, and with intent to intimidate or harass any other  
237 person motivated in whole or in substantial part by any protected social  
238 category of such other person or another person.

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

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

247 Sec. 14. Section 53-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
248 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

249 [Any person who, by his] (a) A person is guilty of hate crime by  
250 commercial advertisement if such person, by such person's  
251 advertisement, ridicules or holds up to contempt any person [or class of  
252 persons, on account of the creed, religion, color, denomination,  
253 nationality or race of such person or class of persons, shall be guilty of]  
254 motivated in whole or in substantial part by any protected social  
255 category of such other person.

256 (b) Hate crime by commercial advertisement is a class D  
257 misdemeanor.

258 (c) For purposes of this section, "advertisement" only includes

259 commercial speech.

260 Sec. 15. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
261 crime by discriminatory public accommodations practice if such person  
262 acts in violation of any provision of section 46a-64 of the general  
263 statutes, as amended by this act, or 46a-81d of the general statutes, as  
264 amended by this act.

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

267 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
268 crime by discriminatory housing practice if such person acts in violation  
269 of any provision of section 46a-64c of the general statutes, as amended  
270 by this act, or 46a-81e of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

271 (b) Hate crime by discriminatory housing practice is a class D  
272 misdemeanor.

273 Sec. 17. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
274 crime by false report if such person falsely reports an incident in  
275 violation of subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-180  
276 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, with specific intent to  
277 falsely report another person motivated in whole or in substantial part  
278 by any protected social category of such other person.

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

280 Sec. 18. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
281 crime by false report to law enforcement if such person falsely reports  
282 an incident to a law enforcement officer or agency in violation of  
283 subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-180c of the  
284 general statutes, as amended by this act, with specific intent to falsely  
285 report another person motivated in whole or in substantial part by any  
286 protected social category of such other person.

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

288 Sec. 19. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
289 crime by false report resulting in serious physical injury or death if such  
290 person acts in violation of section 17 or 18 of this act and such false  
291 report described therein results in the serious physical injury or death  
292 of another person.

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

295 Sec. 20. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
296 crime by stalking if such person commits stalking in the second degree  
297 as provided in section 53a-181d of the general statutes and intentionally  
298 directs such conduct at the other person motivated in whole or in part  
299 by any protected social category of such other person.

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

301 Sec. 21. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) A person is guilty of hate  
302 crime by misuse of emergency 9-1-1 system if such person misuses the  
303 emergency 9-1-1 system in violation of subdivision (1) or (2) of  
304 subsection (a) of section 53a-180d of the general statutes, as amended by  
305 this act, with specific intent to make a false alarm or complaint or report  
306 false information about another person motivated in whole or in  
307 substantial part by any protected social category of such other person.

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

310 Sec. 22. Section 53a-40a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
311 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

312 (a) A persistent offender of hate crimes [involving bigotry or bias] is  
313 a person who (1) stands convicted of a violation (A) of section [46a-58]  
314 53-37, as amended by this act, 53-37a, 53a-181j, as amended by this act,  
315 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or  
316 section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, or  
317 (B) a violation for which the penalty was increased pursuant to section  
318 23 of this act, and (2) has been, prior to the commission of the present

319 crime, convicted of a violation of section [46a-58] 53-37, as amended by  
320 this act, 53-37a, 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended  
321 by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,  
322 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, or section 46a-58, as amended  
323 by this act, in effect prior to October 1, 2025, or section 53a-181b in effect  
324 prior to October 1, 2000, or has been convicted of a crime designated a  
325 hate crime pursuant to subsection (a) of section 23 of this act.

326 (b) When any person has been found to be a persistent offender of  
327 hate crimes, [involving bigotry or bias,] the court shall: (1) In lieu of  
328 imposing the sentence authorized for the crime under section 53a-35a if  
329 the crime is a felony, impose the sentence of imprisonment authorized  
330 by said section for the next more serious degree of felony, or (2) in lieu  
331 of imposing the sentence authorized for the crime under section 53a-36  
332 if the crime is a misdemeanor, impose the sentence of imprisonment  
333 authorized by said section for the next more serious degree of  
334 misdemeanor, except that if the crime is a class A misdemeanor the  
335 court shall impose the sentence of imprisonment for a class [D] E felony  
336 as authorized by section 53a-35a.

337 Sec. 23. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Except as otherwise  
338 provided in this section, for any defendant guilty of any crime set forth  
339 in sections 53a-54a, as amended by this act, 53a-55, 53a-55a, 53a-56, 53a-  
340 56a, 53a-59, 53a-59b, 53a-59c, 53a-60, 53a-60a, 53a-60d, 53a-70, 53a-70a,  
341 53a-70c, 53a-71, 53a-72a, 53a-72b, 53a-73a, 53a-167c, 53a-167d and 53a-  
342 167e of the general statutes or subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section  
343 53a-134 of the general statutes, conspiracy to commit any such crime in  
344 accordance with section 53a-48 of the general statutes, or attempt to  
345 commit any such crime in accordance with section 53-49 of the general  
346 statutes, for which a finder of fact determines beyond a reasonable  
347 doubt that the defendant intentionally selected any person against  
348 whom the crime was committed and was motivated in whole or in  
349 substantial part by any protected social category of such person or  
350 another person, any official record of such crime shall indicate that such  
351 crime was sentenced as a hate crime under this section.

352 (b) For a violation of section 53a-54a of the general statutes, as  
353 amended by this act, if a finder of fact determines beyond a reasonable  
354 doubt that the defendant intentionally selected any person against  
355 whom the crime was committed and was motivated in whole or in  
356 substantial part by any protected social category of such person, the  
357 court shall impose the sentence of imprisonment authorized by  
358 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of section 53a-35a of the general  
359 statutes.

360 (c) The provisions of this section shall only apply in cases where the  
361 documents charging a defendant with offenses include a provision that  
362 the defendant's offense may be recorded as a hate crime pursuant to  
363 subsection (a) of this section or that a defendant is subject to an  
364 enhanced penalty pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, as  
365 applicable.

366 (d) No person shall be found guilty of a hate crime under this section  
367 and for any other offense having all of its elements contained in the hate  
368 crime upon the same transaction, but such person may be charged and  
369 prosecuted for both the hate crime and the other offense upon the same  
370 information. For purposes of this subsection, "hate crime" means any  
371 crime in which the defendant intentionally selected any person or any  
372 real or personal property against whom the crime was committed and  
373 was motivated in whole or in substantial part by any protected social  
374 category of such person.

375 Sec. 24. Subsection (d) of section 54-56e of the general statutes is  
376 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
377 *1, 2025*):

378 (d) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, any defendant  
379 who enters such program shall pay to the court a participation fee of one  
380 hundred dollars. Any defendant who enters such program shall agree  
381 to the tolling of any statute of limitations with respect to such crime and  
382 to a waiver of the right to a speedy trial. Any such defendant shall  
383 appear in court and shall, under such conditions as the court shall order,  
384 be released to the supervision of the Court Support Services Division,

except that, if a criminal docket for drug-dependent persons has been established pursuant to section 51-181b in the judicial district, such defendant may be transferred, under such conditions as the court shall order, to the court handling such docket for supervision by such court. If the defendant refuses to accept, or, having accepted, violates such conditions, the defendant's case shall be brought to trial. The period of such probation or supervision, or both, shall not exceed two years. If the defendant has reached the age of sixteen years but has not reached the age of eighteen years, the court may order that as a condition of such probation the defendant be referred for services to a youth service bureau established pursuant to section 10-19m, provided the court finds, through an assessment by a youth service bureau or its designee, that the defendant is in need of and likely to benefit from such services. When determining any conditions of probation to order for a person entering such program who was charged with a misdemeanor that did not involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person or a motor vehicle violation, the court shall consider ordering the person to perform community service in the community in which the offense or violation occurred. If the court determines that community service is appropriate, such community service may be implemented by a community court established in accordance with section 51-181c if the offense or violation occurred within the jurisdiction of a community court established by said section. If the defendant is charged with a violation (1) of section [46a-58] 53-37, as amended by this act, 53-37a, 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, or (2) for which the penalty was increased pursuant to section 23 of this act, the court may order that as a condition of such probation the defendant participate in a hate crimes diversion program as provided in subsection (e) of this section. If a defendant is charged with a violation of section 53-247, the court may order that as a condition of such probation the defendant undergo psychiatric or psychological counseling or participate in an animal cruelty prevention and education program provided such a program exists and is available to the

420 defendant.

421       Sec. 25. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Nothing in section 53-37  
422 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181j of the general  
423 statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181k of the general statutes, as  
424 amended by this act, or 53a-181l of the general statutes, as amended by  
425 this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of  
426 this act, shall be construed to limit any right under chapter 814c of the  
427 general statutes of any person claiming to be aggrieved by a  
428 discriminatory practice, as described in chapter 814c of the general  
429 statutes, to file a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights and  
430 Opportunities or to bring any civil action as authorized by section 46a-  
431 98a of the general statutes, section 46a-100 of the general statutes, or as  
432 otherwise provided by law.

433       (b) Nothing in section 53-37 of the general statutes, as amended by  
434 this act, 53a-181j of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181k  
435 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l of the general  
436 statutes, as amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15,  
437 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to limit the  
438 jurisdiction and powers of the Commission on Human Rights and  
439 Opportunities and the Attorney General under chapter 814c of the  
440 general statutes.

441       (c) Nothing in section 53-37 of the general statutes, as amended by  
442 this act, 53a-181j of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181k  
443 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l of the general  
444 statutes, as amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15,  
445 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to affect the authority  
446 of any court to order financial restitution pursuant to subsection (c) of  
447 section 53a-28 of the general statutes for any victim of a violation of  
448 section 53-37 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181j of  
449 the general statutes, as amended by this act, 53a-181k of the general  
450 statutes, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l of the general statutes, as  
451 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,  
452 19, 20 or 21 of this act.

453 Sec. 26. Section 46a-58 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
454 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

455 (a) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section for  
456 any person to subject, or cause to be subjected, any other person to the  
457 deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities, secured or protected  
458 by the Constitution or laws of this state or of the United States, on  
459 account of religion, national origin, alienage, color, race, sex, gender  
460 identity or expression, sexual orientation, blindness, mental disability,  
461 physical disability, age, status as a veteran or status as a victim of  
462 domestic violence.

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

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

474 (d) Any person who places a noose or a simulation thereof on any  
475 public property, or on any private property without the written consent  
476 of the owner, and with intent to intimidate or harass any other person  
477 on account of religion, national origin, alienage, color, race, sex, gender  
478 identity or expression, sexual orientation, blindness, mental disability,  
479 physical disability, age, status as a veteran or status as a victim of  
480 domestic violence, shall be in violation of subsection (a) of this section.

481 [(e) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, any  
482 person who violates any provision of this section shall be guilty of a  
483 class A misdemeanor and shall be fined not less than one thousand  
484 dollars, except that if property is damaged as a consequence of such



485 violation in an amount in excess of one thousand dollars, such person  
486 shall be guilty of a class D felony and shall be fined not less than one  
487 thousand dollars.

488 (2) Any person who violates the provisions of this section by  
489 intentionally desecrating a house of religious worship (A) shall be guilty  
490 of a class D felony and shall be fined not less than one thousand dollars  
491 if property is damaged as a consequence of such violation in an amount  
492 up to and including ten thousand dollars, and (B) shall be guilty of a  
493 class C felony and shall be fined not less than three thousand dollars if  
494 the property damaged as a consequence of such violation is in an  
495 amount in excess of ten thousand dollars.

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

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

501 (e) Nothing in section 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as  
502 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as  
503 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,  
504 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to limit the meaning of any  
505 discriminatory practice as described in this section.

506 Sec. 27. Section 46a-64 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
507 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

508 (a) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section: (1)  
509 To deny any person within the jurisdiction of this state full and equal  
510 accommodations in any place of public accommodation, resort or  
511 amusement because of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex,  
512 gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of  
513 income, intellectual disability, mental disability, physical disability,  
514 including, but not limited to, blindness or deafness, status as a veteran  
515 or status as a victim of domestic violence, of the applicant, subject only

516 to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike  
517 to all persons; (2) to discriminate, segregate or separate on account of  
518 race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or  
519 expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income, intellectual  
520 disability, mental disability, learning disability, physical disability,  
521 including, but not limited to, blindness or deafness, status as a veteran  
522 or status as a victim of domestic violence; (3) for a place of public  
523 accommodation, resort or amusement to restrict or limit the right of a  
524 mother to breast-feed her child; (4) for a place of public accommodation,  
525 resort or amusement to refuse entry to a person with a disability who is  
526 accompanied by a service animal; or (5) to deny any person with a  
527 disability or any person training an animal as a service animal to assist  
528 a person with a disability, accompanied by such service animal, full and  
529 equal access to any place of public accommodation, resort or  
530 amusement. Any person with a disability or any person training an  
531 animal as a service animal may keep such service animal at all times in  
532 such place of public accommodation, resort or amusement at no extra  
533 charge, provided such service animal is in the direct custody and control  
534 of such person. When it is not obvious what service an animal provides,  
535 staff of a place of public accommodation, resort or amusement may  
536 inquire of the owner or keeper whether such animal is a service animal  
537 required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has  
538 been trained to perform. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude a  
539 business owner's ability to recover for damage caused to a person or  
540 property by a service animal. For the purposes of this subsection,  
541 "disability" and "service animal" have the same meanings as provided  
542 in section 22-345 and "place of public accommodation, resort or  
543 amusement" has the same meaning as provided in section 46a-44.

544 (b) (1) The provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of  
545 sex discrimination shall not apply to (A) the rental of sleeping  
546 accommodations provided by associations and organizations which  
547 rent all such sleeping accommodations on a temporary or permanent  
548 basis for the exclusive use of persons of the same sex or (B) separate  
549 bathrooms or locker rooms based on sex. (2) The provisions of this  
550 section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of

age shall not apply to minors or to special discount or other public or private programs to assist persons sixty years of age and older. (3) The provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of physical disability shall not require any person to modify his property in any way or provide a higher degree of care for a physically disabled person, including, but not limited to blind or deaf persons, than for a person not physically disabled. (4) The provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of creed shall not apply to the practice of granting preference in admission of residents into a nursing home as defined in section 19a-490, if (A) the nursing home is owned, operated by or affiliated with a religious organization, exempt from taxation for federal income tax purposes and (B) the class of persons granted preference in admission is consistent with the religious mission of the nursing home. (5) The provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of lawful source of income shall not prohibit the denial of full and equal accommodations solely on the basis of insufficient income.

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

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

Sec. 28. Section 46a-64c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

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

(1) To refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, or to refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, a dwelling to any person because of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression,

583 marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, status as a  
584 veteran or status as a victim of domestic violence.

585 (2) To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or  
586 privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services  
587 or facilities in connection therewith, because of race, creed, color,  
588 national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, marital  
589 status, age, lawful source of income, familial status or status as a  
590 veteran.

591 (3) To make, print or publish, or cause to be made, printed or  
592 published any notice, statement, or advertisement, with respect to the  
593 sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation, or  
594 discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex,  
595 gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of  
596 income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability  
597 or status as a veteran, or an intention to make any such preference,  
598 limitation or discrimination.

599 (4) (A) To represent to any person because of race, creed, color,  
600 national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, marital  
601 status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability,  
602 physical or mental disability or status as a veteran that any dwelling is  
603 not available for inspection, sale or rental when such dwelling is in fact  
604 so available.

605 (B) It shall be a violation of this subdivision for any person to restrict  
606 or attempt to restrict the choices of any buyer or renter to purchase or  
607 rent a dwelling (i) to an area which is substantially populated, even if  
608 less than a majority, by persons of the same protected class as the buyer  
609 or renter, (ii) while such person is authorized to offer for sale or rent  
610 another dwelling which meets the housing criteria as expressed by the  
611 buyer or renter to such person, and (iii) such other dwelling is in an area  
612 which is not substantially populated by persons of the same protected  
613 class as the buyer or renter. As used in this subdivision, "area" means  
614 municipality, neighborhood or other geographic subdivision which  
615 may include an apartment or condominium complex; and "protected

616 class" means race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender  
617 identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income,  
618 familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability or status  
619 as a veteran.

620 (5) For profit, to induce or attempt to induce any person to sell or rent  
621 any dwelling by representations regarding the entry or prospective  
622 entry into the neighborhood of a person or persons of a particular race,  
623 creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression,  
624 marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning  
625 disability, physical or mental disability or status as a veteran.

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

632 (B) To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions or  
633 privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services  
634 or facilities in connection with such dwelling, because of a learning  
635 disability or physical or mental disability of: (i) Such person; or (ii) a  
636 person residing in or intending to reside in such dwelling after it is so  
637 sold, rented, or made available; or (iii) any person associated with such  
638 person.

639 (C) For purposes of this subdivision, discrimination includes: (i) A  
640 refusal to permit, at the expense of a person with a physical or mental  
641 disability, reasonable modifications of existing premises occupied or to  
642 be occupied by such person if such modifications may be necessary to  
643 afford such person full enjoyment of the premises; except that, in the  
644 case of a rental, the landlord may, where it is reasonable to do so,  
645 condition permission for a modification on the renter agreeing to restore  
646 the interior of the premises to the condition that existed before the  
647 modification, reasonable wear and tear excepted; (ii) a refusal to make  
648 reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices or services,

649 when such accommodations may be necessary to afford such person  
650 equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling; (iii) in connection with  
651 the design and construction of covered multifamily dwellings for the  
652 first occupancy after March 13, 1991, a failure to design and construct  
653 those dwellings in such manner that they comply with the requirements  
654 of Section 804(f) of the Fair Housing Act or the provisions of the state  
655 building code as adopted pursuant to the provisions of sections 29-269  
656 and 29-273, whichever requires greater accommodation. "Covered  
657 multifamily dwellings" means buildings consisting of four or more units  
658 if such buildings have one or more elevators, and ground floor units in  
659 other buildings consisting of four or more units.

660 (7) For any person or other entity engaging in residential real-estate-  
661 related transactions to discriminate against any person in making  
662 available such a transaction, or in the terms or conditions of such a  
663 transaction, because of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex,  
664 gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of  
665 income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability  
666 or status as a veteran.

667 (8) To deny any person access to or membership or participation in  
668 any multiple-listing service, real estate brokers' organization or other  
669 service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or  
670 renting dwellings, or to discriminate against him in the terms or  
671 conditions of such access, membership or participation, on account of  
672 race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or  
673 expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status,  
674 learning disability, physical or mental disability or status as a veteran.

675 (9) To coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any person in the  
676 exercise or enjoyment of, or on account of his having exercised or  
677 enjoyed, or on account of his having aided or encouraged any other  
678 person in the exercise or enjoyment of, any right granted or protected  
679 by this section.

680 (b) (1) The provisions of this section shall not apply to (A) the rental  
681 of a room or rooms in a single-family dwelling unit if the owner actually

682 maintains and occupies part of such living quarters as his residence or  
683 (B) a unit in a dwelling containing living quarters occupied or intended  
684 to be occupied by no more than two families living independently of  
685 each other, if the owner actually maintains and occupies the other such  
686 living quarters as his residence. (2) The provisions of this section with  
687 respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of marital status  
688 shall not be construed to prohibit the denial of a dwelling to a man or a  
689 woman who are both unrelated by blood and not married to each other.  
690 (3) The provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of  
691 discrimination on the basis of age shall not apply to minors, to special  
692 discount or other public or private programs to assist persons sixty  
693 years of age and older or to housing for older persons as defined in  
694 section 46a-64b, provided there is no discrimination on the basis of age  
695 among older persons eligible for such housing. (4) The provisions of this  
696 section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of  
697 familial status shall not apply to housing for older persons as defined in  
698 section 46a-64b or to a unit in a dwelling containing units for no more  
699 than four families living independently of each other, if the owner of  
700 such dwelling resides in one of the units. (5) The provisions of this  
701 section with respect to the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of  
702 lawful source of income shall not prohibit the denial of full and equal  
703 accommodations solely on the basis of insufficient income. (6) The  
704 provisions of this section with respect to the prohibition of  
705 discrimination on the basis of sex shall not apply to the rental of sleeping  
706 accommodations to the extent they utilize shared bathroom facilities  
707 when such sleeping accommodations are provided by associations and  
708 organizations which rent such sleeping accommodations on a  
709 temporary or permanent basis for the exclusive use of persons of the  
710 same sex based on considerations of privacy and modesty.

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

714 (d) Nothing in this section or section 46a-64b shall be construed to  
715 invalidate or limit any state statute or municipal ordinance that requires

716 dwellings to be designed and constructed in a manner that affords  
717 persons with physical or mental disabilities greater access than is  
718 required by this section or section 46a-64b.

719 (e) Nothing in this section prohibits a person engaged in the business  
720 of furnishing appraisals of real property to take into consideration  
721 factors other than race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex,  
722 gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of  
723 income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability  
724 or status as a veteran.

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

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

735 (g) Nothing in section 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as  
736 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as  
737 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,  
738 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to limit the meaning of any  
739 discriminatory practice as described in this section.

740 Sec. 29. Section 46a-81d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
741 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

742 (a) It shall be a discriminatory practice in violation of this section: (1)  
743 To deny any person within the jurisdiction of this state full and equal  
744 accommodations in any place of public accommodation, resort or  
745 amusement because of such person's sexual orientation or civil union  
746 status, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law



747 and applicable alike to all persons; or (2) to discriminate, segregate or  
748 separate on account of sexual orientation or civil union status.

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

751 (b) Nothing in section 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as  
752 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as  
753 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,  
754 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to limit the meaning of any  
755 discriminatory practice as described in this section.

756 Sec. 30. Section 46a-81e of the general statutes is repealed and the  
757 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

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

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

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

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

772 (4) (A) To represent to any person because of sexual orientation or  
773 civil union status, that any dwelling is not available for inspection, sale  
774 or rental when such dwelling is in fact so available. (B) It shall be a  
775 violation of this subdivision for any person to restrict or attempt to  
776 restrict the choices of any buyer or renter to purchase or rent a dwelling

777 (i) to an area which is substantially populated, even if less than a  
778 majority, by persons of the same sexual orientation or civil union status  
779 as the buyer or renter, (ii) while such person is authorized to offer for  
780 sale or rent another dwelling which meets the housing criteria as  
781 expressed by the buyer or renter to such person and (iii) such other  
782 dwelling is in an area which is not substantially populated by persons  
783 of the same sexual orientation or civil union status as the buyer or renter.  
784 As used in this subdivision, "area" means municipality, neighborhood  
785 or other geographic subdivision which may include an apartment or  
786 condominium complex.

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

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

795 (7) To deny any person access to or membership or participation in  
796 any multiple-listing service, real estate brokers' organization or other  
797 service, organization, or facility relating to the business of selling or  
798 renting dwellings, or to discriminate against him in the terms or  
799 conditions of such access, membership or participation, on account of  
800 sexual orientation or civil union status.

801 (8) To coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere with any person in the  
802 exercise or enjoyment of, or on account of his having exercised or  
803 enjoyed, or on account of his having aided or encouraged any other  
804 person in the exercise or enjoyment of, any right granted or protected  
805 by this section.

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

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

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

820 (e) [Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be  
821 guilty of a class D misdemeanor] Nothing in section 53-37, as amended  
822 by this act, 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by  
823 this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,  
824 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, shall be construed to limit  
825 the meaning of any discriminatory practice as described in this section.

826 Sec. 31. Section 53a-61aa of the general statutes is repealed and the  
827 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

828 (a) A person is guilty of threatening in the first degree when such  
829 person (1) (A) threatens to commit any crime involving the use of a  
830 hazardous substance with the intent to terrorize another person, to  
831 cause evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of public  
832 transportation or otherwise to cause serious public inconvenience, or (B)  
833 threatens to commit such crime in reckless disregard of the risk of  
834 causing such terror, evacuation or inconvenience; (2) (A) threatens to  
835 commit any crime of violence with the intent to cause evacuation of a  
836 building, place of assembly or facility of public transportation or  
837 otherwise to cause serious public inconvenience, or (B) threatens to  
838 commit such crime in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such  
839 evacuation or inconvenience; (3) commits threatening in the second  
840 degree as provided in section 53a-62, as amended by this act, and in the  
841 commission of such offense such person uses or is armed with and

842 threatens the use of or displays or represents by such person's words or  
843 conduct that such person possesses a pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle,  
844 machine gun or other firearm; or (4) violates subdivision (1) or (2) of this  
845 subsection with the intent to cause an evacuation of a building or the  
846 grounds of a (A) [house of religious worship, (B) religiously-affiliated  
847 community center, (C)] public or nonpublic preschool, school or  
848 institution of higher education, or [(D)] (B) day care center, as defined  
849 in section 19a-87g, during operational, preschool, school or instructional  
850 hours or when a building or the grounds of such [house of worship,  
851 community center,] preschool, school, institution or day care center are  
852 being used for the provision of religious or community services, or  
853 [house of worship, community center,] preschool, school, institution or  
854 day care center-sponsored activities. No person shall be found guilty of  
855 threatening in the first degree under subdivision (3) of this subsection  
856 and threatening in the second degree upon the same transaction but  
857 such person may be charged and prosecuted for both such offenses  
858 upon the same information.

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

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

872 Sec. 32. Section 53a-62 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
873 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

874 (a) A person is guilty of threatening in the second degree when: (1)

875 By physical threat, such person intentionally places or attempts to place  
876 another person in fear of imminent serious physical injury, (2) (A) such  
877 person threatens to commit any crime of violence with the intent to  
878 terrorize another person, or (B) such person threatens to commit such  
879 crime of violence in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror,  
880 or (3) violates subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection and the person  
881 threatened is in a building or on the grounds of a (A) [house of religious  
882 worship, (B) religiously-affiliated community center, (C)] public or  
883 nonpublic preschool, school or institution of higher education, or [(D)]  
884 (B) day care center, as defined in section 19a-87g, during operational,  
885 preschool, school or instructional hours or when a building or the  
886 grounds of such [house of worship, community center,] preschool,  
887 school, institution or day care center are being used for the provision of  
888 religious or community services, or [house of worship, community  
889 center,] preschool, school, institution or day care center-sponsored  
890 activities.

891 [(b) For the purposes of this section, "religiously-affiliated  
892 community center" has the same meaning as provided in section 53a-  
893 61aa.]

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

897 Sec. 33. Section 53a-180 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
898 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

899 (a) A person is guilty of falsely reporting an incident in the first  
900 degree when, knowing the information reported, conveyed or  
901 circulated to be false or baseless, such person: (1) Initiates or circulates  
902 a false report or warning of an alleged occurrence or impending  
903 occurrence of a fire, explosion, catastrophe or emergency under  
904 circumstances in which it is likely that public alarm or inconvenience  
905 will result; (2) reports, by word or action, to any official or quasi-official  
906 agency or organization having the function of dealing with emergencies  
907 involving danger to life or property, an alleged occurrence or

908 impending occurrence of a fire, explosion or other catastrophe or  
909 emergency which did not in fact occur or does not in fact exist; or (3)  
910 violates subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection with intent to cause a  
911 large scale emergency response. [; or (4) violates subdivision (1), (2) or  
912 (3) of this subsection with specific intent to falsely report another person  
913 or group of persons because of the actual or perceived race, religion,  
914 ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or  
915 expression of such other person or group of persons.] For purposes of  
916 this section, "large scale emergency response" means an on-site response  
917 to any such reported incident by five or more first responders, and "first  
918 responder" means any peace officer or firefighter or any ambulance  
919 driver, emergency medical responder, emergency medical technician or  
920 paramedic, as those terms are defined in section 19a-175.

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

925 (c) In addition to any sentence imposed pursuant to subsection (b) of  
926 this section, if (1) a person is convicted of an offense in violation of  
927 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section that resulted in a large  
928 scale emergency response, (2) any agency or department of the state or  
929 political subdivision of the state requests financial restitution for costs  
930 associated with such emergency response, and (3) the court finds that  
931 the agency or department of the state or political subdivision of the state  
932 incurred costs associated with such emergency response as a result of  
933 such offense, the court shall order the offender to make financial  
934 restitution under terms that the court determines are appropriate. In  
935 determining the appropriate terms of financial restitution, the court  
936 shall consider: (A) The financial resources of the offender and the  
937 burden restitution will place on other obligations of the offender; (B) the  
938 offender's ability to pay based on installments or other conditions; (C)  
939 the rehabilitative effect on the offender of the payment of restitution and  
940 the method of payment; and (D) other circumstances, including the  
941 financial burden and impact on the agency or department of the state or

942 political subdivision of the state, that the court determines make the  
943 terms of restitution appropriate. If the court determines that the current  
944 financial resources of the offender or the offender's current ability to pay  
945 based on installments or other conditions are such that no appropriate  
946 terms of restitution can be determined, the court may forego setting  
947 such terms. The court shall articulate its findings on the record with  
948 respect to each of the factors set forth in subparagraphs (A) to (D),  
949 inclusive, of this subsection. Restitution ordered by the court pursuant  
950 to this subsection shall be based on easily ascertainable damages for  
951 actual expenses associated with such emergency response. Restitution  
952 ordered by the court pursuant to this subsection shall be imposed or  
953 directed by a written order of the court containing the amount of actual  
954 expenses associated with such emergency response, as ascertained by  
955 the court. The order of the court shall direct that a certified copy of the  
956 order be delivered by certified mail to the agency or department of the  
957 state or political subdivision of the state. Such order is enforceable in the  
958 same manner as an order pursuant to subsection (c) of section 53a-28.

959 Sec. 34. Section 53a-180a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
960 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

961 (a) A person is guilty of falsely reporting an incident resulting in  
962 serious physical injury or death when such person commits the crime of  
963 (1) falsely reporting an incident in the first degree as provided in  
964 subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-180, as amended  
965 by this act, or (2) falsely reporting an incident in the second degree as  
966 provided in subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-  
967 180c, as amended by this act, [or (3) falsely reporting an incident in the  
968 first degree as provided in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section  
969 53a-180 or falsely reporting an incident in the second degree as provided  
970 in subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 53a-180c,] and such false  
971 report described in subdivision (1) [.] or (2) [or (3)] of this subsection  
972 results in the serious physical injury or death of another person.

973 (b) Falsely reporting an incident resulting in serious physical injury  
974 or death is a [(1)] class C felony. [for a violation of subdivision (1) or (2)]

975 of subsection (a) of this section, or (2) class B felony for a violation of  
976 subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of this section.]

977 Sec. 35. Section 53a-180c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
978 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

979 (a) A person is guilty of falsely reporting an incident in the second  
980 degree when, knowing the information reported, conveyed or  
981 circulated to be false or baseless, such person gratuitously reports to a  
982 law enforcement officer or agency (1) the alleged occurrence of an  
983 offense or incident which did not in fact occur, (2) an allegedly  
984 impending occurrence of an offense or incident which in fact is not  
985 about to occur, or (3) false information relating to an actual offense or  
986 incident or to the alleged implication of some person therein. [, or (4)  
987 violates subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection with specific intent  
988 to falsely report another person or group of persons because of the  
989 actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual  
990 orientation or gender identity or expression of such other person or  
991 group of persons.]

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

996 Sec. 36. Section 53a-180d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
997 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

998 (a) A person is guilty of misuse of the emergency 9-1-1 system when  
999 such person (1) dials or otherwise causes E 9-1-1 to be called for the  
1000 purpose of making a false alarm or complaint, or (2) purposely reports  
1001 false information which could result in the dispatch of emergency  
1002 services. [, or (3) violates subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection with  
1003 specific intent to make a false alarm or complaint or report false  
1004 information about another person or group of persons because of the  
1005 actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual  
1006 orientation or gender identity or expression of such other person or



1007 group of persons.]

1008 (b) Misuse of the emergency 9-1-1 system is a [(1)] class B  
1009 misdemeanor. [for a violation of subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a)  
1010 of this section, or (2) class A misdemeanor for a violation of subdivision  
1011 (3) of subsection (a) of this section.]

1012 Sec. 37. Section 53a-181c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1013 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1014 (a) A person is guilty of stalking in the first degree when such person  
1015 commits stalking in the second degree as provided in section 53a-181d,  
1016 and (1) such person has previously been convicted of a violation of  
1017 section 53a-181d, (2) such conduct violates a court order in effect at the  
1018 time of the offense, or (3) such person is twenty-two years of age or older  
1019 and the other person is under sixteen years of age. [, or (4) such person  
1020 intentionally directs such conduct at the other person, in whole or in  
1021 part, because of the actual or perceived race, religion, ethnicity,  
1022 disability, sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression of  
1023 such other person.]

1024 (b) Stalking in the first degree is a class D felony.

1025 Sec. 38. Section 52-571c of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1026 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1027 (a) Any person injured in person or property as a result of an act that  
1028 constitutes a violation of section 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-  
1029 181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or  
1030 section 6, 7 or 10 of this act may bring a civil action against the person  
1031 who committed such act to recover damages for such injury.

1032 (b) In any civil action brought under this section in which the plaintiff  
1033 prevails, the court shall award treble damages and may, in its discretion,  
1034 award equitable relief and a reasonable attorney's fee.

1035 (c) No action shall be brought under this section but within three  
1036 years from the date of the act complained of.

1037 Sec. 39. Section 3-129f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1038 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1039 (a) The Attorney General may investigate the facts and circumstances  
1040 concerning any alleged violation of section [53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-  
1041 181l] 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as amended by this act,  
1042 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or  
1043 section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, and  
1044 in connection with such investigation, issue subpoenas and written  
1045 interrogatories in the same manner and to the same extent as is provided  
1046 in section 35-42. No information obtained pursuant to the provisions of  
1047 this subsection may be used in a criminal proceeding.

1048 (b) If the Attorney General finds that a person has committed an act  
1049 that constitutes a violation of section [53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l] 53-  
1050 37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-181k,  
1051 as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or section 5,  
1052 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, the Attorney  
1053 General may bring a civil action in the superior court for the judicial  
1054 district in which such act occurred in the name of the state against such  
1055 person.

1056 (c) In any such action, the Attorney General may obtain, for the  
1057 benefit of a person adversely affected by a violation of section [53a-181j,  
1058 53a-181k or 53a-181l] 53-37, as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as  
1059 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as  
1060 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,  
1061 19, 20 or 21 of this act, any relief to which such person may be entitled  
1062 by law, including treble damages; a civil penalty not to exceed two  
1063 thousand five hundred dollars, per violation, provided such violation  
1064 has been established by clear and convincing evidence; and declaratory,  
1065 injunctive or equitable relief that the Attorney General determines is  
1066 necessary to vindicate the public's interests. Any civil penalty that is  
1067 received pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in the General  
1068 Fund.

1069 (d) Nothing in this section shall limit the right of a person adversely

1070 affected by a violation of section [53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l] 53-37,  
1071 as amended by this act, 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-181k, as  
1072 amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or section 6, 7,  
1073 8, 9 or 10 of this act to bring an action under section 52-571c, as amended  
1074 by this act, or any other law that may entitle such person to relief, except  
1075 that the Attorney General shall not bring an action under the provisions  
1076 of this section during the pendency of a matter involving the same  
1077 parties and the same alleged facts and circumstances before the  
1078 Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities.

1079 (e) Nothing in this section shall permit the Attorney General to assert  
1080 any claim against a state agency or a state officer or state employee in  
1081 such officer's or employee's official capacity, regarding actions or  
1082 omissions of such state agency, state officer or state employee. If the  
1083 Attorney General determines that a state officer or state employee is not  
1084 entitled to indemnification under section 5-141d, the Attorney General  
1085 may, as it relates to such officer or employee, take any action authorized  
1086 under this section.

1087 Sec. 40. Subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 29-7d of the  
1088 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu  
1089 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1090 (1) Shall seek to prevent and detect any criminal activity or suspected  
1091 criminal activity in the state that is a violation of section [46a-58,] 53-37,  
1092 as amended by this act, 53-37a, 53-37b, [or 53a-61aa, subdivision (3) of  
1093 subsection (a) of section 53a-62, subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of  
1094 section 53a-181c, or section 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l] 53a-181j, as  
1095 amended by this act, 53a-181k, as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as  
1096 amended by this act, or section 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18,  
1097 19, 20 or 21 of this act;

1098 Sec. 41. Subsection (a) of section 51-279f of the general statutes is  
1099 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
1100 *1, 2025*):

1101 (a) There shall be a State-Wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council within

1102 the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, for administrative purposes  
1103 only. Members of the council shall include (1) the following, or their  
1104 designees: The Chief State's Attorney; the Chief Public Defender; the  
1105 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection; the  
1106 president of the Connecticut Bar Association; the president of the  
1107 George W. Crawford Black Bar Association; the president of the South  
1108 Asian Bar Association of Connecticut; the president of the Connecticut  
1109 Asian Pacific American Bar Association; the president of the  
1110 Connecticut Hispanic Bar Association; the director of the Institute for  
1111 Municipal and Regional Policy at The University of Connecticut; and  
1112 the president of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association; (2) the head  
1113 of the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit, established pursuant to  
1114 subsection (d) of section 29-4; and (3) no more than thirty appointed by  
1115 the Governor who are representatives of organizations committed to  
1116 decreasing hate crimes, improving diversity awareness or representing  
1117 the interests of groups within the state protected by sections [53a-181j to  
1118 53a-181l, inclusive] 53-37, as amended by this act, 53-37a, 53a-40a, as  
1119 amended by this act, and sections 53a-181j to 53a-181l, inclusive, as  
1120 amended by this act, and sections 5 to 13, inclusive, 15 to 21, inclusive,  
1121 and 23 of this act.

1122 Sec. 42. Subsection (a) of section 17a-210d of the general statutes is  
1123 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
1124 *1, 2025*):

1125 (a) (1) Wherever the words "the mentally retarded" are used in the  
1126 following general statutes, "persons with intellectual disability" or  
1127 "individuals with intellectual disability" shall be substituted in lieu  
1128 thereof; (2) wherever the words "mentally retarded", "mentally retarded  
1129 person" or "mentally retarded persons" are used in the following general  
1130 statutes, the words "intellectual disability", "person with intellectual  
1131 disability" or "persons with intellectual disability" shall be substituted  
1132 in lieu thereof; and (3) wherever the words "mental retardation" are used  
1133 in the following general statutes, the words "intellectual disability" shall  
1134 be substituted in lieu thereof: 4a-60, 4b-31, 8-2g, 8-3e, 9-159s, 10-91f, 17a-  
1135 593, 17a-594, 17a-596, 45a-598, 45a-669, 45a-672, 45a-676, 45a-677, 45a-

1136 678, 45a-679, 45a-680, 45a-681, 45a-682, 45a-683, 46a-51, 46a-60, 46a-64,  
1137 as amended by this act, 46a-64b, 46a-66, 46a-70, 46a-71, 46a-72, 46a-73,  
1138 46a-75, 46a-76, 46b-84, 52-146o, 53a-46a [, 53a-181i] and 54-250.

1139 Sec. 43. Subsection (c) of section 53a-13 of the general statutes is  
1140 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
1141 *1, 2025*):

1142 (c) As used in this section, (1) the terms mental disease or defect do  
1143 not include (A) an abnormality manifested only by repeated criminal or  
1144 otherwise antisocial conduct, or (B) pathological or compulsive  
1145 gambling, and (2) "gender identity or expression" means gender identity  
1146 or expression, as defined in section [53a-181i] 1-1n.

1147 Sec. 44. Section 53a-16 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
1148 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1149 In any prosecution for an offense, justification, as defined in sections  
1150 53a-17 to 53a-23, inclusive, shall be a defense. Justification as a defense  
1151 does not include provocation that resulted solely from the discovery of,  
1152 knowledge about or potential disclosure of the victim's actual or  
1153 perceived sex, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression,  
1154 including under circumstances in which the victim made an unwanted,  
1155 nonforcible, romantic or sexual advance toward the defendant, or if the  
1156 defendant and victim dated or had a romantic relationship. As used in  
1157 this section, "gender identity or expression" means gender identity or  
1158 expression, as defined in section [53a-181i] 1-1n.

1159 Sec. 45. Subsection (a) of section 53a-30 of the general statutes is  
1160 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
1161 *1, 2025*):

1162 (a) When imposing sentence of probation or conditional discharge,  
1163 the court may, as a condition of the sentence, order that the defendant:  
1164 (1) Work faithfully at a suitable employment or faithfully pursue a  
1165 course of study or of vocational training that will equip the defendant  
1166 for suitable employment; (2) undergo medical or psychiatric treatment

1167 and remain in a specified institution, when required for that purpose;  
1168 (3) support the defendant's dependents and meet other family  
1169 obligations; (4) make restitution of the fruits of the defendant's offense  
1170 or make restitution, in an amount the defendant can afford to pay or  
1171 provide in a suitable manner, for the loss or damage caused thereby. The  
1172 court or the Court Support Services Division, if authorized by the court,  
1173 may fix the amount thereof and the manner of performance, and the  
1174 victim shall be advised by the court or the Court Support Services  
1175 Division that restitution ordered under this section may be enforced  
1176 pursuant to section 53a-28a; (5) if a minor, (A) reside with the minor's  
1177 parents or in a suitable foster home, (B) attend school, and (C) contribute  
1178 to the minor's own support in any home or foster home; (6) post a bond  
1179 or other security for the performance of any or all conditions imposed;  
1180 (7) refrain from violating any criminal law of the United States, this state  
1181 or any other state; (8) if convicted of a misdemeanor or a felony, other  
1182 than a capital felony under the provisions of section 53a-54b in effect  
1183 prior to April 25, 2012, a class A felony or a violation of section 53a-70b  
1184 of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or  
1185 section 21a-278, 21a-278a, 53a-55, 53a-56, 53a-56b, 53a-57 or 53a-58 or  
1186 any offense for which there is a mandatory minimum sentence which  
1187 may not be suspended or reduced by the court, and any sentence of  
1188 imprisonment is suspended, participate in an alternate incarceration  
1189 program; (9) reside in a residential community center or halfway house  
1190 approved by the Commissioner of Correction, and contribute to the cost  
1191 incident to such residence; (10) participate in a program of community  
1192 service labor in accordance with section 53a-39c; (11) participate in a  
1193 program of community service in accordance with section 51-181c; (12)  
1194 if convicted of a violation of section 53a-70b of the general statutes,  
1195 revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or subdivision (2) of  
1196 subsection (a) of section 53-21 or section 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, 53a-72a  
1197 or 53a-72b, undergo specialized sexual offender treatment; (13) if  
1198 convicted of a criminal offense against a victim who is a minor, a  
1199 nonviolent sexual offense or a sexually violent offense, as defined in  
1200 section 54-250, or of a felony that the court finds was committed for a  
1201 sexual purpose, as provided in section 54-254, register such person's

1202 identifying factors, as defined in section 54-250, with the Commissioner  
1203 of Emergency Services and Public Protection when required pursuant  
1204 to section 54-251, 54-252 or 54-253, as the case may be; (14) be subject to  
1205 electronic monitoring, which may include the use of a global positioning  
1206 system; (15) if convicted of a violation (A) of section [46a-58] 53-37, as  
1207 amended by this act, 53-37a, 53a-181j, as amended by this act, 53a-181k,  
1208 as amended by this act, or 53a-181l, as amended by this act, or section 5,  
1209 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 of this act, or (B) for  
1210 which the penalty was increased pursuant to section 23 of this act,  
1211 participate in an anti-bias or diversity awareness program or participate  
1212 in a program of community service designed to remedy damage caused  
1213 by the commission of a [bias] hate crime or otherwise related to the  
1214 defendant's violation; (16) if convicted of a violation of section 53-247,  
1215 undergo psychiatric or psychological counseling or participate in an  
1216 animal cruelty prevention and education program provided such a  
1217 program exists and is available to the defendant; or (17) satisfy any other  
1218 conditions reasonably related to the defendant's rehabilitation. The  
1219 court shall cause a copy of any such order to be delivered to the  
1220 defendant and to the probation officer, if any.

1221 Sec. 46. Subsection (c) of section 53a-54a of the general statutes is  
1222 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
1223 *1, 2025*):

1224 (c) Murder is punishable as a class A felony in accordance with  
1225 subdivision (2) of section 53a-35a unless [it is] (1) it is a capital felony  
1226 committed prior to April 25, 2012, by a person who was eighteen years  
1227 of age or older at the time of the offense, punishable in accordance with  
1228 subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of section 53a-35a, (2) it is murder  
1229 with special circumstances committed on or after April 25, 2012, by a  
1230 person who was eighteen years of age or older at the time of the offense,  
1231 punishable as a class A felony in accordance with subparagraph (B) of  
1232 subdivision (1) of section 53a-35a, [or] (3) it is murder under section 53a-  
1233 54d committed by a person who was eighteen years of age or older at  
1234 the time of the offense, or (4) the finder of fact makes a determination  
1235 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 23 of this act resulting in the court

1236 imposing a term of imprisonment in accordance with subparagraph (B)  
 1237 of subdivision (1) of section 53a-35a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2025	53a-181i
Sec. 2	October 1, 2025	53a-181j
Sec. 3	October 1, 2025	53a-181k
Sec. 4	October 1, 2025	53a-181l
Sec. 5	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 6	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 7	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 8	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 9	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 10	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 11	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 12	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 13	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 14	October 1, 2025	53-37
Sec. 15	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 16	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 17	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 18	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 19	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 20	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 21	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 22	October 1, 2025	53a-40a
Sec. 23	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 24	October 1, 2025	54-56e(d)
Sec. 25	October 1, 2025	New section
Sec. 26	October 1, 2025	46a-58
Sec. 27	October 1, 2025	46a-64
Sec. 28	October 1, 2025	46a-64c
Sec. 29	October 1, 2025	46a-81d
Sec. 30	October 1, 2025	46a-81e
Sec. 31	October 1, 2025	53a-61aa
Sec. 32	October 1, 2025	53a-62
Sec. 33	October 1, 2025	53a-180
Sec. 34	October 1, 2025	53a-180a
Sec. 35	October 1, 2025	53a-180c



Sec. 36	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-180d
Sec. 37	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-181c
Sec. 38	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	52-571c
Sec. 39	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	3-129f
Sec. 40	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	29-7d(a)(1)
Sec. 41	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	51-279f(a)
Sec. 42	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	17a-210d(a)
Sec. 43	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-13(c)
Sec. 44	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-16
Sec. 45	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-30(a)
Sec. 46	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	53a-54a(c)

***Statement of Legislative Commissioners:***

In Section 1, section references were adjusted for accuracy, in Sections 25(a), 26(e), 27(c), 28(g), 29(b) and 30(e), "defined" was changed to "described" for accuracy, and Section 46 was added for conformity.

***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:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 26 \$</b>	<b>FY 27 \$</b>
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 26-38 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 \$3,300<sup>1</sup> while the average marginal cost for supervision in the community is less than \$600<sup>2</sup> each year for adults and \$450 each year for juveniles.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

**Section 22** 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. 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.

**Section 39** 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.

**Sections 24 and 45** 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. Since FY 20, 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.

**Sections 23 and 46** allow courts to designate certain crimes as a hate crime, require judges to indicate on the official record when a crime is sentenced as such, and enhance the penalty for murder if designated as a hate crime. This results in a potential cost to the Department of Correction for incarceration.

### ***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****sHB 6872****AN ACT REVISING AND CONSOLIDATING THE HATE CRIMES STATUTES.**

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**§§ 42-44 — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

Makes minor, technical, and conforming changes

**SUMMARY**

This bill makes several changes to the various hate crimes under current law. Among other things, the bill does the following:

1. combines current law’s various classes protected against crimes motivated by bias into one protected social category for hate crimes under the bill;
2. 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;

3. replaces “acting maliciously” with “acting intentionally” as an element of certain of the crimes, where applicable;
4. requires the judge to indicate on the record when a crimes was sentenced as a hate crime;
5. enhances the penalty for murder to a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release if designated a hate crime;
6. allows all hate crime offenders to participate in the accelerated rehabilitation program; and
7. extends the (a) attorney general’s authority to bring action in any hate crime, (b) scope of the Hate Crimes Investigative Unit’s duties, and (c) State-wide Hate Crimes Advisory Council’s membership.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

## § 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 individuals 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 under 60), 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 (e.g., 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.

## **§§ 1-21 & 26-38 — 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 a hate crime 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 & 38)***

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. Also, 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**

<b><i>Crime Label Under Current Law</i></b>	<b><i>Crime Label Under the Bill</i></b>	<b><i>Penalties (Under the bill)</i></b>
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, 1 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, (if under 60), color, alienage, and national origin.

**Hate Crime Causing Physical Injury.** Under the bill, a person is guilty of "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 "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 "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 "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 "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 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 Religious Property (§§ 5 & 26)***

Under the bill, it is a "hate crime affecting religious property" 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 (1) religious object or symbol or (2) house of religious worship.

Under the bill, acts affecting a religious object or symbol 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 it is a class D felony for damages over \$1,000. The bill and existing law impose a minimum fine of \$1,000 whether the crime is a misdemeanor or a felony. (A class A misdemeanor is punishable by a fine up to \$2,000, up to 364 days in

prison or both.)

As under current law for desecrating a house of religious worship, the penalty for a hate crime affecting religious property where the property is a house of 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.

***Threatening a House of Religious Worship or Religiously-Affiliated Community Center (§§ 8, 9, 31 & 32)***

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 (e.g., to cause the evacuation of a house of religious worship) or involves certain buildings (e.g., 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. Current law specifies that the affiliation is with an organized religion.

**1st Degree.** Under the bill a person is guilty of “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 “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 & 26)***

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 "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 U.S. laws or Constitution, 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 veteran -status and domestic-violence-victim status as protected classes for this crime; 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 persons aged 60 or older. Thus, under the bill, acts motivated by the victim's status as a veteran, domestic violence victim, or age (if under 60) 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 "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 veteran-status and domestic-violence-victims status as protected classes for this crime; 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 persons aged 60 or older. Thus, under the bill, acts motivated by the victim's status as a veteran, domestic violence victim, or age (if under 60) 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(if under 60), s additional protected categories. As under current law, 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 & 27-30)**

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

misdeemeanors 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.

***Hate Crime by Discriminatory Public Accommodations Practice.***

Under the bill, a person is guilty of “hate crime by discriminatory public accommodations practice” if he or she commits any discriminatory public accommodation practice.

***Hate Crime by Discriminatory Housing Practice.*** Under the bill, a person is guilty of “hate crime by discriminatory housing practice” if he or she engages in any discriminatory housing practice.

***False Reporting (§§ 17-19 & 33-35)***

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 persons 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, (if under 60), as protected social categories.

***Hate Crime by False Report.*** Under the bill, a person is guilty of “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. initiates 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 in fact occur or does not in fact 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 "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 in fact occur, (2) an allegedly impending offense or

incident that in fact is not about to occur, 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 “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 & 37)***

Under the bill, a person is guilty of “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 & 36)**

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 persons 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 a person 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 or a violation for which the penalty was increased as a hate crime (see below) and
2. was previously convicted of any of the bill's hate crimes in effect before October 1, 2025, or a crime designated as a hate crime below.

## **§§ 23 & 46 — DESIGNATING CRIME AS HATE CRIME AND ENHANCED PENALTY FOR MURDER**

*Allows the judge to designate certain crimes as a hate crime; requires the judge to indicate on the official record when a crime is sentenced as a hate crime; enhances the penalty for murder if designated a hate crime*

### ***Designation of Crime as Hate Crime***

The bill generally requires that for the crimes listed below, any official record of the crime must indicate that the crime was sentenced as a hate crime under this provision if a finder of fact determines beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant intentionally selected any person against whom the crime was committed and was motivated in whole or in substantial part by any protected social category of the person or another person.

For this provision, a “hate crime” is any crime in which the defendant intentionally selected a person or any real or personal property against whom the crime was committed and was motivated in whole or in substantial part by the person’s protected social category.

**Applicable Crimes.** This applies to any defendant guilty of murder; 1st and 2nd degree manslaughter; 1st and 2nd degree manslaughter with a firearm; 1st and 2nd degree assault; 1st degree assault of a Department of Correction employee; assault of a pregnant woman resulting in termination of the pregnancy; 2nd degree assault with a firearm; 2nd degree assault with a motor vehicle; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th degree sexual assault; 1st degree aggravated sexual assault; aggravated sexual assault of a minor; 3rd sexual assault with a firearm; assault of public safety, emergency medical, public transit, or healthcare personnel; assault of a prosecutor; aggravated assault of a public transit employee; 1st degree robbery causing serious physical injury to a nonparticipant in the crime; or a conspiracy or attempt to commit any of these crimes

**Enhanced Penalty for Murder.** Under the bill, for murder, if a finder of fact determines beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant intentionally selected any person against whom the crime was committed and was motivated in whole or in substantial part by the person’s protected social category, the court must impose a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release.

**Applicable Cases.** Under the bill, this section must only apply in cases where the documents charging a defendant with offenses include a provision that the (1) defendant’s offense may be recorded as a hate crime in accordance with this section or (2) defendant is subject to an enhanced penalty (see above), as applicable.

**Prosecution.** Under the bill, no one may be found guilty of a hate crime under this section and for any other offense having all its elements contained in the hate crime upon the same transaction. However, that person may be charged and prosecuted for both the hate crime and the other offense upon the same information.

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**§ 24 — ACCELERATED PRETRIAL REHABILITATION**

*Allows all hate crime offenders under the bill to participate in 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 and any violation designated as a hate crime for which the penalty was increased (see above).

**§ 25 — CHRO'S JURISDICTION AND COURT'S AUTHORITY**

*Specifies that its provisions do not limit (1) a person'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 a person 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.

**§ 39 — 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 (e.g., 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).

#### **§ 40 — 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)).

#### **§ 41 — 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.

#### **§ 45 — 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 a person'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.

#### **§§ 42-44 — 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."

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**



## Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 38      Nay 2      (04/04/2025)