



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Committee Bill No. 980

LCO No. 5487



Referred to Committee on HIGHER EDUCATION AND
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT

Introduced by:
(HED)

***AN ACT IMPROVING SAFETY ON THE CAMPUSES OF INSTITUTIONS
OF HIGHER EDUCATION.***

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Hate incident" means any speech or conduct, including, but not
3 limited to, intimidation, harassment and threatening, that is motivated
4 by hatred, prejudice, bias or bigotry toward a person or group based on
5 a person's actual or perceived race, religious identity or ethnicity;
- 6 (2) "Intimidation" means intimidation as described in sections 53a-
7 181j to 53a-181l, inclusive, of the general statutes;
- 8 (3) "Harassment" means harassment as described in sections 53a-182b
9 and 53a-183 of the general statutes; and
- 10 (4) "Threatening" means threatening as described in sections 53a-61aa
11 and 53a-62 of the general statutes.
- 12 (b) Not later than September 1, 2025, each institution of higher
13 education in the state shall appoint a Title VI coordinator for each

14 campus of such institution to ensure the programs and activities
15 occurring on such campus comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act
16 of 1964. The Title VI coordinator shall be responsible for (1) receiving
17 and responding to complaints of a hate incident or other discrimination,
18 (2) providing or coordinating education and training for staff,
19 administrators and faculty employed at such campus, (3) collecting data
20 and soliciting student feedback on the campus climate related to
21 discrimination based on a person's actual or perceived race, religious
22 identity or ethnicity, and (4) any other duties and responsibilities
23 assigned by the president of such institution.

24 (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, each institution of higher education
25 in the state shall adopt one or more policies regarding hate incidents on
26 each campus of such institution. Such policy or policies shall include,
27 but need not be limited to, provisions for:

28 (1) Training for all staff, administrators and faculty employed at such
29 institution, including, but not limited to, in any office or department of
30 such institution related to diversity, equity and inclusion, student affairs
31 and campus safety, on how to respond to hate incidents that occur
32 during a class or event at such institution at the time such incident
33 occurs.

34 (2) A procedure for accepting and investigating complaints from any
35 student or employee of such institution concerning an alleged hate
36 incident involving such student or employee or any other student or
37 employee of such institution. Such procedure shall include, but need not
38 be limited to, disclosure of the results of any disciplinary proceeding
39 held by such institution as a result of such complaint to such student or
40 employee and to each student or employee that is the subject of such
41 complaint not later than one business day after the conclusion of such
42 proceeding in a manner that complies with the requirements of the
43 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 USC 1232g, as amended
44 from time to time.

45 (3) Creation of a campus task force to combat antisemitism,

46 Islamophobia or any other form of hatred, prejudice, bias or bigotry
 47 toward others based on a person's actual or perceived religious identity
 48 that occurs at such institution. Such campus task force shall include, but
 49 need not be limited to, (A) the institution's Title VI coordinator
 50 appointed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and chief student
 51 affairs officer, or their designees, (B) not less than one member from its
 52 (i) administration, (ii) counseling services office, (iii) special police force,
 53 campus police force or campus safety personnel, (iv) faculty, (v) senior
 54 and mid-level staff, (vi) student body, and (vii) residential life office, and
 55 (C) any other individuals designated by the president of such
 56 institution.

57 (4) Establishment of partnerships between (A) the special police force,
 58 campus police force or campus safety personnel employed by such
 59 institution, and (B) local law enforcement and state police to coordinate
 60 security for student groups that are at a heightened risk, as determined
 61 by the president of such institution, of being the target of a terrorist
 62 attack, hate crime or violent act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2025	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require institutions of higher education to provide training and adopt procedures to respond to and prevent incidents of hate, harassment and racial, religious or ethnic bias.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. LESSER, 9th Dist.; REP. BUMGARDNER, 41st Dist.

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