
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 944 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY COSTA, FONTANA, MUTH, HUGHES, L. WILLIAMS,
SANTARSIERO, FARNESE, KEARNEY, SCHWANK, STREET, DINNIMAN,
SABATINA, BREWSTER, COLLETT AND HAYWOOD, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

REFERRED TO LAW AND JUSTICE, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in employees, further providing for
3 definitions and providing for police officer training on
4 hate-based intimidation.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Section 2162 of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania
8 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a definition to read:
9 § 2162. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter
11 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 * * *

14 "Hate-based intimidation." A threat of physical injury, harm
15 to property or other injury motivated by hatred toward an
16 individual's or group of individuals' actual or perceived:

17 (1) race;

18 (2) color;

- 1 (3) religion;
- 2 (4) national origin;
- 3 (5) ancestry;
- 4 (6) sex;
- 5 (7) gender or gender identity;
- 6 (8) sexual orientation;
- 7 (9) intellectual disability;
- 8 (10) physical or sensory disability; or
- 9 (11) behavioral or mental health.

10 * * *

11 Section 2. Title 53 is amended by adding a section to read:

12 § 2172. Police officer training on hate-based intimidation.

13 The commission and the Pennsylvania State Police shall, in
14 consultation with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
15 and the Attorney General, develop and provide biennial training
16 on hate-based intimidation to police officers. The commission
17 and the Pennsylvania State Police may also consult with relevant
18 stakeholders in developing the training. The training shall
19 include, but not be limited to:

- 20 (1) Identification of hate-based intimidation.
- 21 (2) Methods to address hate-based intimidation.
- 22 (3) Reporting of hate-based intimidation.
- 23 (4) Hate-based intimidation recordkeeping.

24 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.