
Community Safety Committee

HB 1052

Brief Description: Clarifying a hate crime offense.

Sponsors: Representatives Ryu, Ramel, Leavitt and Berry.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modifies the conduct that constitutes a Hate Crime offense to include when a person commits a specified act in whole or in part because of the person's perception of another person's certain characteristics.

Hearing Date: 1/13/25

Staff: Corey Patton (786-7388).

Background:

A person commits a Hate Crime offense if the person maliciously and intentionally commits one of the following acts because of the person's perception of another person's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, or disability:

- assaults another person;
- causes physical damage to or destruction of the property of another person; or
- threatens a specific person or group of persons and places that person, or members of the specific group of persons, in fear of harm to person or property that a reasonable person with similar characteristics to the victim would have under the same circumstances.

A Hate Crime offense is a class C felony ranked at seriousness level IV and is punishable by a maximum sentence of five years of imprisonment, a \$10,000 fine, or both. In addition to such criminal penalties, the victim of a Hate Crime offense may bring a civil cause of action against the perpetrator for actual damages, punitive damages of up to \$100,000, and reasonable

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attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing the action.

Summary of Bill:

The conduct that constitutes a Hate Crime offense is modified to include when a person maliciously and intentionally commits one of the statutorily specified acts in whole or in part because of the person's perception of another person's race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, or disability.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 8, 2025.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.