



General Assembly

January Session, 2017

Committee Bill No. 5297

LCO No. 3427



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING INTIMIDATION BASED ON BIGOTRY OR BIAS AGAINST A PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEE.

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 Section 53a-181i of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2017*):

3 For the purposes of sections 53a-181j to 53a-181l, inclusive, as
4 amended by this act:

5 (1) "Disability" means physical disability, mental disability or
6 intellectual disability;

7 (2) "Gender identity or expression" means a person's gender-related
8 identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related
9 identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally
10 associated with the person's assigned sex at birth;

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

14 (4) "Intellectual disability" has the same meaning as provided in
15 section 1-1g; [and]

16 (5) "Physical disability" means any chronic physical handicap,
17 infirmity or impairment, whether congenital or resulting from bodily
18 injury, organic processes or changes or from illness, including, but not
19 limited to, blindness, epilepsy, deafness or hearing impairment or
20 reliance on a wheelchair or other remedial appliance or device; and

21 (6) "Public safety employee" means a member of the Division of
22 State Police within the Department of Emergency Services and Public
23 Protection, a member of an organized local police department, a
24 firefighter, as defined in section 7-313g, or an emergency medical
25 technician, as defined in section 19a-175.

26 Sec. 2. Section 53a-181j of the general statutes is repealed and the
27 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

28 (a) A person is guilty of intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the
29 first degree when such person maliciously, and with specific intent to
30 intimidate or harass another person because of the actual or perceived
31 race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity
32 or expression of such other person or because of such person's actual
33 knowledge that such other person is a public safety employee, causes
34 serious physical injury to such other person or to a third person.

35 (b) Intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the first degree is a class
36 C felony.

37 Sec. 3. Section 53a-181k of the general statutes is repealed and the
38 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

39 (a) A person is guilty of intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the
40 second degree when such person maliciously, and with specific intent
41 to intimidate or harass another person because of the actual or
42 perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or
43 gender identity or expression of such other person or because of such

44 person's actual knowledge that such other person is a public safety
45 employee, does any of the following: (1) Causes physical contact with
46 such other person, (2) damages, destroys or defaces any real or
47 personal property of such other person, or (3) threatens, by word or
48 act, to do an act described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, if
49 there is reasonable cause to believe that an act described in subdivision
50 (1) or (2) of this subsection will occur.

51 (b) Intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the second degree is a
52 class D felony.

53 Sec. 4. Section 53a-181l of the general statutes is repealed and the
54 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2017*):

55 (a) A person is guilty of intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the
56 third degree when such person, with specific intent to intimidate or
57 harass another person or group of persons because of the actual or
58 perceived race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation or
59 gender identity or expression of such other person or persons or
60 because of such person's actual knowledge that such other person or
61 persons are public safety employees: (1) Damages, destroys or defaces
62 any real or personal property, or (2) threatens, by word or act, to do an
63 act described in subdivision (1) of this subsection or advocates or urges
64 another person to do an act described in subdivision (1) of this
65 subsection, if there is reasonable cause to believe that an act described
66 in said subdivision will occur.

67 (b) Intimidation based on bigotry or bias in the third degree is a
68 class A misdemeanor.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	53a-181i
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	53a-181j
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	53a-181k
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	53a-181l

Statement of Purpose:

To include within the offense of intimidation based on bigotry or bias the act of a person intimidating or harassing another person because such other person is a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician.

[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: REP. SREDZINSKI, 112th Dist.; REP. KLARIDES-DITRIA, 105th
Dist.
REP. GRESKO, 121st Dist.

H.B. 5297