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## OLR Bill Analysis

### SB 1233

#### ***AN ACT EXEMPTING THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF AN INDIVIDUAL REPORTING AN ALLEGATION INVOLVING BIGOTRY OR BIAS AND OF THE ALLEGED OFFENDER FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill exempts from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) certain names and addresses in reports of alleged bigotry or bias towards a person, group of people, or religiously-affiliated entity based on their race, religion, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression (i.e. hate crime reports). More specifically, it exempts the names and addresses of the person making the report and the alleged offender in hate crime reports made to (1) law enforcement agencies, including on the standardized form or system developed for reports to the state Hate Crimes Investigative Unit, and (2) any database established by UConn's Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy for reporting these allegations. The bill also specifies that its exemption includes hate crime reports with allegations of violating certain specified laws, as described below.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025

#### **SPECIFIED CRIMES**

The bill specifies that its exemption includes hate crime reports with allegations of violating the laws shown in the table below.

**Table: Reported Crimes Specified in the Bill**

<b>CGS §</b>	<b>Violation</b>
46a-58	Deprivation of rights, desecration of property, placing a burning cross or noose on property
53-37	Ridicule on account of protected characteristic (e.g., religion, color, nationality, or race)
53-37a	Deprivation of rights by person wearing mask or hood
53-37b	Deprivation of rights by using force or threat

53a-40a	Persistent offender of crimes involving bigotry or bias
53a-62(a)(3)	Threatening someone in a building or on the grounds of a house of religious worship, religiously-affiliated community center, school or institution of higher education, or day care center
53a-180(a)(4) 53a-180c(a)(4)	First or second degree falsely reporting an incident with specific intent to falsely report another person or group of people because of their protected status (e.g., race, ethnicity, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression)
53a-180d(a)(3)	Misuse of the emergency 9-1-1 system with specific intent to make a false alarm or complaint or report false information about another person or group of persons because of their protected status
53a-181c(a)(4)	First degree stalking another person because of their protected status
53a-181j 53a-181k 53a-181l	First, second, or third degree intimidation based on bigotry or bias

## RELATED BILLS

SB 1226, favorably reported by the Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committee, generally exempts from disclosure under FOIA records maintained or kept by or for public higher education institution faculty or staff arising from teaching or research on medical, artistic, scientific, legal, or other scholarly issues.

HB 6850, favorably reported by the GAE Committee, generally (1) expands FOIA's limitation on disclosing a home address in an agency's personnel, medical, or similar files to generally cover all of the agency's employees, rather than just specified groups of employees and individuals (e.g., certain judges and police officers), and (2) extends to all public agency employees provisions in existing law that allow covered individuals to also request address confidentiality for other types of records.

sHB 6883, favorably reported by the Government Oversight Committee, (1) exempts any information indicating the location of a shelter or transitional housing for sexual assault victims from disclosure required under FOIA and (2) requires a public agency meeting's discussion about shelters or transitional housing for domestic violence or sexual assault victims to be held in executive session if it would reveal the shelter's or housing's location.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (02/28/2025)