

Subject Creating a crime for falsely reporting a crime motivated by bias

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Overview

Under current law, it is a misdemeanor to falsely report a crime knowing that the report is false and intending that an officer act on the false report. A second offense is a gross misdemeanor.

This bill establishes a gross misdemeanor penalty for falsely reporting that a crime motivated by bias has been committed when the person reporting the information knows that it is false.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>False reporting of bias crime.</p> <p>Creates a gross misdemeanor offense for falsely reporting that a crime motivated by bias occurred when the reporter knows that the information is false. Defines “peace officer” consistent with existing statutes. Defines “crime motivated by bias” as an offense in which the offender selected the victim or property in whole or in part because of the victim’s or property owner’s actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, or national origin. Provides that a crime motivated by bias includes, but is not limited to, existing offenses with enhanced penalties for acts that are motivated by bias.</p>