MN HOUSE RESEARCH

Subject	Making changes to Minnesota's laws on crimes motivated by bias
Authors	Hornstein and others
Analyst	Ben Johnson (ben.johnson@house.mn)
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Overview

Under Minnesota law, certain crimes are subject to enhanced penalties if the crimes were motivated by bias against particular groups. Peace officers collect data on those crimes and the Peace Officer Standards and Training Board oversees training to assist officers to recognize crimes motivated by bias. This bill expands the categories crimes motivated by bias to include bias against a person due to the person's gender, gender identity, or gender expression, and bias against a person who associates with someone in a protected group. It also directs the commissioner of human rights to collect supplemental data on crimes motivated by bias and appropriates money for grants to assist in collecting the data and to provide support services for victims of those crimes.

Summary

Section	Description
1	**Formulation of policies.** Directs the commissioner of human rights to collaborate and consult with the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training regarding the training of peace officers in identifying crimes motivated by bias. Directs the commissioner to solicit, receive, and compile reports from community organizations, schools, and individuals regarding crimes that members of the community believe are motivated by bias.
2	**Assaults motivated by bias.** Expands the crime of an assault motivated by bias to include bias against a person due to the person's gender, gender identity, or gender expression, and bias against a person who associates with someone in a protected group.
3	**Felony assault motivated by bias; increased statutory maximum sentence.** Expands the enhanced sentencing for a felony assault motivated by bias to include bias against a person due to the person's gender, gender identity, or gender

Section	Description

expression, and bias against a person who associates with someone in a protected group.

4   **Criminal damage to property in the second degree.**

Amends the crime of damage to property that causes at least $500 but not more than $1,000 in damage but was motivated by bias to apply when the crime (1) is committed because of the victim's actual or perceived status in a protected group; (2) is committed because the victim associated with someone who is, or was believed to be, part of a protected group; (3) was motivated by an intent to intimidate or harm a person who is, or was believed to be, part of a protected group; or (4) was motived by an intent to intimidate or harm someone who associated with someone who is, or was believed to be, part of a protected group.

5   **Criminal damage to property in the third degree.**

Amends the crime of damage to property that causes no more than $500 in damage but was motivated by bias to apply when the crime (1) is committed because of the victim's actual or perceived status in a protected group; (2) is committed because the victim associated with someone who is, or was believed to be, part of a protected group; (3) was motivated by an intent to intimidate or harm a person who is, or was believed to be, part of a protected group; or (4) was motived by an intent to intimidate or harm someone who associated with someone who is, or was believed to be, part of a protected group.

6   **Aggravated violations.**

Expands the crime of harassment motivated by bias to include bias against a person due to the person's gender, gender identity, or gender expression, and bias against a person who associates with someone in a protected group.

7   **Reports required.**

Expands the situations in which a peace officer must report a crime as a crime motivated by bias to include crimes motivated by bias against a person due to the person's gender, gender identity, or gender expression, and bias against a person who associates with someone in a protected group.

8   **Training course; crimes motivated by bias.**

Expands the training course on crimes motivated by bias that the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training must prepare to include crimes committed due to bias against a person due to the person's gender, gender identity, or gender expression, and bias against a person who associates with someone in a protected group. Directs the Board to review the course every three years. Requires the Board to receive the approval of the commissioner of human rights when updating the course.

Section	Description

9 **In-service training required.**

Requires training to assist peace officers in recognizing crimes motivated by bias. Directs the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training to review the learning objectives on an annual basis and to consult with the commissioner of human services when assessing the objectives.

10 **Collection of data; appropriation.**

Appropriates an unidentified amount in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to the commissioner of human rights to collect data on crimes motivated by bias.

11 **Support for victims of crime motivated by bias; appropriation.**

Appropriates an unidentified amount in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to the Office of Justice Programs to provide grants to nonprofit organizations to provide support services for victims of crimes motivated by bias.

12 **Support for community organizations; appropriation.**

Appropriates an unidentified amount in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to the commissioner of human rights for grants to nonprofit organizations to collect and report to the commissioner of human rights data on crimes motivated by bias.