



Legislative Fact Sheet



AB 158: Hate Crime Reporting Guidelines

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Issue

According to the FBI's *Hate Crime Statistics* report for 2015¹, there was a total of 5,818 hate crimes in 2015, a rise of about 6% over the previous year. Attacks against Muslim Americans saw the biggest surge. There were 257 reports of assaults, attacks on mosques and other hate crimes against Muslims last year, a jump of about 67% over 2014. It was the highest total since 9/11. The rhetoric from President Trump has reinvigorated and empowered certain organizations to promote their divisive ideology, and we have clearly seen the results.

Bill Summary

AB 158 would:

- Require that the first page of a law enforcement agency's departmental information and crime report cover sheets to include a check box indicating whether or not the incident in question was bias related.
- Require that the check boxes be accompanied by the question:
 - "Do you believe this incident was committed in whole or in part because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim: disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics?"

What is Being Asked of California Legislators?

- Support Assembly Bill 158, the Hate Crime Reporting Guidelines Act, a bill that would establish uniform hate crime reporting standards for law enforcement agencies statewide.
- Co-sponsor the bill by contacting Annie Pham with the office of Assembly Member Kansen Chu at Annie.Pham@asm.ca.gov or 916-319-2025.

¹ FBI Hate Crime Statistics, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2015> (2015)