



Governor Ned Lamont

Fact Sheet: 2025 Legislative Proposal

HOUSE BILL 6872

AN ACT REVISING AND CONSOLIDATING THE HATE CRIMES STATUTES

The Current Situation

Connecticut's hate crimes laws are inconsistent and need work. Currently, they are scattered throughout varying sections of the General Statutes, and many of the laws reference inconsistent terminology and protected classes, making it difficult for police and prosecutors to use them. Additionally, these laws contain onerous intent requirements that are exceedingly difficult for prosecutors to charge and prove.

In 2021, the Governor appointed the Hate Crimes Advisory Council. Since its creation, the Advisory Council has done admirable work on hate crimes, launching the reporthate.ct.gov portal, making it more accessible for Connecticut residents to report hate and bias incidents. Over the past two years, a team of HCAC members and professors at UConn Law School have been hard at work drafting this proposal to address the growing need to consolidate Connecticut's hate crimes laws.

Governor Lamont's Solution

Consolidate all of Connecticut's hate crimes laws into one act, with the goal of creating one chapter of the General Statutes, making it easier for police and prosecutors to find and charge those crimes. The proposal will also standardize the protected classes across all relevant sections.



This will also align Connecticut's intent standard more closely with other states' laws, including New York¹ and California², by removing the element that a defendant must have acted "maliciously."

Below is a list of hate crimes and related offenses that are consolidated and renamed by the proposal.

- Hate Crime Causing Physical Injury
- Hate Crime Causing Physical Contact
- Hate Crime Affecting Property
- Hate Crime Affecting Religious Property
- Hate Crime by Threat of Physical Contact
- Hate Crime by Threat to Property
- Hate Crime by Threatening in the First Degree with Respect to House of Religious Worship or Religiously-Affiliated Community Center
- Hate Crime by Threatening in the Second Degree with Respect to House of Religious Worship or Religiously-Affiliated Community Center
- Hate Crime by Advocacy or Urging
- Hate Crime by Deprivation of Civil Rights
- Hate Crime by Burning Cross
- Hate Crime by Noose
- Hate Crime with Mask or Hood
- Hate Crime by Commercial Advertisement
- Hate Crime by Public Accommodations Practice
- Hate Crime by Housing Practice
- Hate Crime by False Report
- Hate Crime by False Report to Law Enforcement
- Hate Crime by False Report Resulting in Serious Physical Injury or Death
- Hate Crime by Stalking
- Hate Crime by Misuse of Emergency 9-1-1 System

¹ NY Penal Law § 485.05.

² Cal. Penal Code § 422.55.