

MAR 06 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO STUDY
THE REPORTING, PROSECUTION, AND CONVICTION RATE OF HATE
CRIMES IN THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, hate crimes are defined as any criminal act in
2 which the perpetrator intentionally selected a victim because of
3 hostility toward the actual or perceived race, religion,
4 disability, ethnicity, national origin, gender identity or
5 expression, or sexual orientation of any person; and
6

7 WHEREAS, the Department of the Attorney General is
8 responsible for the collection, storage, dissemination, and
9 analysis of all hate crime data from all agencies that have
10 primary investigative, action, or program responsibility for
11 adult or juvenile offenses, including the county police
12 departments, the county prosecutors, the family courts, and the
13 departments or agencies responsible for administering any
14 correctional facilities; and
15

16 WHEREAS, the Department of the Attorney General currently
17 only includes data based on convictions in its annual report of
18 hate crime data submitted to the Governor, Judiciary, Department
19 of Public Safety, and Legislature; and
20

21 WHEREAS, based on this rendering of statistics, only two
22 hate crimes were reported for the State in the most recent
23 annual report; and
24

25 WHEREAS, hate crime data acquired by the county police
26 departments indicates that the number of crimes initially
27 flagged as hate crimes greatly exceeds the number reported by
28 the Attorney General; and
29

30 WHEREAS, there appears to be a disconnect between the
31 number of crimes initially reported as hate crimes and those
32 that are eventually included in the Attorney General's report;
33 now, therefore,
34



