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State of Misconsin 2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1811/1 CMH:kjf

2017 SENATE BILL 64

February 21, 2017 - Introduced by Senators Johnson, Carpenter, C. Larson, L. Taylor and Vinehout, cosponsored by Representatives Ohnstad, Anderson, Barca, Berceau, Billings, Bowen, Considine, Fields, Hesselbein, Mason, Pope, Riemer, Sargent, Sinicki, Spreitzer, Subeck, C. Taylor, Wachs and Zamarripa. Referred to Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

AN ACT to create 165.73 of the statutes; relating to: hate crime hotline.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under this bill, the Department of Justice must maintain a toll-free hotline for persons to report hate crimes. "Hate crimes" are crimes in which the perpetrator selects the victim due to the perpetrator's belief or perception of the victim's race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, or ancestry.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. 165.73 of the statutes is created to read:

165.73 Hotline for reports of hate crimes. (1) In this section, "hate crime" means a crime under chs. 939 to 948 in which the actor selects the person against whom the crime is committed or selects the property that is damaged or otherwise affected by the crime in whole or in part because of the actor's belief or perception regarding the race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, or ancestry of that person or the owner or occupant of that property, whether or not the actor's belief or perception was correct.

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(2) The department of justice shall maintain a toll-free telephone number with voice mail to receive reports of hate crimes. The department shall relay a report of a hate crime to the appropriate employee of the department or law enforcement officer for investigation. The department shall keep confidential the person's identity who makes a report of a hate crime. The department shall publicize the toll-free telephone number by creating a flyer and making the flyers available and printable from its website.

8 (END)