

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1592

AN ACT

To provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Local Law Enforce-
3 ment Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF HATE CRIME.**

5 In this Act—

6 (1) the term “crime of violence” has the mean-
7 ing given that term in section 16, title 18, United
8 States Code;

9 (2) the term “hate crime” has the meaning
10 given such term in section 280003(a) of the Violent
11 Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994
12 (28 U.S.C. 994 note); and

13 (3) the term “local” means a county, city, town,
14 township, parish, village, or other general purpose
15 political subdivision of a State.

16 **SEC. 3. SUPPORT FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND**
17 **PROSECUTIONS BY STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIB-**
18 **AL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS.**

19 (a) ASSISTANCE OTHER THAN FINANCIAL ASSIST-
20 ANCE.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—At the request of State,
22 local, or Tribal law enforcement agency, the Attor-
23 ney General may provide technical, forensic, prosecu-
24 torial, or any other form of assistance in the crimi-
25 nal investigation or prosecution of any crime that—

26 (A) constitutes a crime of violence;

1 (B) constitutes a felony under the State,
2 local, or Tribal laws; and

3 (C) is motivated by prejudice based on the
4 actual or perceived race, color, religion, national
5 origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender iden-
6 tity, or disability of the victim, or is a violation
7 of the State, local, or Tribal hate crime laws.

8 (2) PRIORITY.—In providing assistance under
9 paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall give pri-
10 ority to crimes committed by offenders who have
11 committed crimes in more than one State and to
12 rural jurisdictions that have difficulty covering the
13 extraordinary expenses relating to the investigation
14 or prosecution of the crime.

15 (b) GRANTS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may
17 award grants to State, local, and Indian law enforce-
18 ment agencies for extraordinary expenses associated
19 with the investigation and prosecution of hate
20 crimes.

21 (2) OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS.—In imple-
22 menting the grant program under this subsection,
23 the Office of Justice Programs shall work closely
24 with grantees to ensure that the concerns and needs
25 of all affected parties, including community groups

1 and schools, colleges, and universities, are addressed
2 through the local infrastructure developed under the
3 grants.

4 (3) APPLICATION.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each State, local, and
6 Indian law enforcement agency that desires a
7 grant under this subsection shall submit an ap-
8 plication to the Attorney General at such time,
9 in such manner, and accompanied by or con-
10 taining such information as the Attorney Gen-
11 eral shall reasonably require.

12 (B) DATE FOR SUBMISSION.—Applications
13 submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall
14 be submitted during the 60-day period begin-
15 ning on a date that the Attorney General shall
16 prescribe.

17 (C) REQUIREMENTS.—A State, local, and
18 Indian law enforcement agency applying for a
19 grant under this subsection shall—

20 (i) describe the extraordinary pur-
21 poses for which the grant is needed;

22 (ii) certify that the State, local gov-
23 ernment, or Indian tribe lacks the re-
24 sources necessary to investigate or pros-
25 ecute the hate crime;

1 (iii) demonstrate that, in developing a
2 plan to implement the grant, the State,
3 local, and Indian law enforcement agency
4 has consulted and coordinated with non-
5 profit, nongovernmental violence recovery
6 service programs that have experience in
7 providing services to victims of hate
8 crimes; and

9 (iv) certify that any Federal funds re-
10 ceived under this subsection will be used to
11 supplement, not supplant, non-Federal
12 funds that would otherwise be available for
13 activities funded under this subsection.

14 (4) DEADLINE.—An application for a grant
15 under this subsection shall be approved or denied by
16 the Attorney General not later than 30 business
17 days after the date on which the Attorney General
18 receives the application.

19 (5) GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant under this sub-
20 section shall not exceed \$100,000 for any single ju-
21 risdiction in any 1-year period.

22 (6) REPORT.—Not later than December 31,
23 2008, the Attorney General shall submit to Congress
24 a report describing the applications submitted for
25 grants under this subsection, the award of such

1 grants, and the purposes for which the grant
2 amounts were expended.

3 (7) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this subsection \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years
6 2008 and 2009.

7 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.—The Office of
9 Justice Programs of the Department of Justice may
10 award grants, in accordance with such regulations as the
11 Attorney General may prescribe, to State, local, or Tribal
12 programs designed to combat hate crimes committed by
13 juveniles, including programs to train local law enforce-
14 ment officers in identifying, investigating, prosecuting,
15 and preventing hate crimes.

16 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
18 necessary to carry out this section.

19 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION FOR ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO**
20 **ASSIST STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL LAW EN-**
21 **FORCEMENT.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated to the De-
23 partment of Justice, including the Community Relations
24 Service, for fiscal years 2008, 2009, and 2010 such sums
25 as are necessary to increase the number of personnel to

1 prevent and respond to alleged violations of section 249
2 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 7 of
3 this Act.

4 **SEC. 6. PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN HATE CRIME ACTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 18, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing:

8 **“§ 249. Hate crime acts**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

10 “(1) OFFENSES INVOLVING ACTUAL OR PER-
11 CEIVED RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, OR NATIONAL ORI-
12 GIN.—Whoever, whether or not acting under color of
13 law, willfully causes bodily injury to any person or,
14 through the use of fire, a firearm, or an explosive or
15 incendiary device, attempts to cause bodily injury to
16 any person, because of the actual or perceived race,
17 color, religion, or national origin of any person—

18 “(A) shall be imprisoned not more than 10
19 years, fined in accordance with this title, or
20 both; and

21 “(B) shall be imprisoned for any term of
22 years or for life, fined in accordance with this
23 title, or both, if—

24 “(i) death results from the offense; or

1 “(ii) the offense includes kidnaping or
2 an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual
3 abuse or an attempt to commit aggravated
4 sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill.

5 “(2) OFFENSES INVOLVING ACTUAL OR PER-
6 CEIVED RELIGION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, GENDER, SEX-
7 UAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, OR DIS-
8 ABILITY.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Whoever, whether or
10 not acting under color of law, in any cir-
11 cumstance described in subparagraph (B), will-
12 fully causes bodily injury to any person or,
13 through the use of fire, a firearm, or an explo-
14 sive or incendiary device, attempts to cause
15 bodily injury to any person, because of the ac-
16 tual or perceived religion, national origin, gen-
17 der, sexual orientation, gender identity or dis-
18 ability of any person—

19 “(i) shall be imprisoned not more
20 than 10 years, fined in accordance with
21 this title, or both; and

22 “(ii) shall be imprisoned for any term
23 of years or for life, fined in accordance
24 with this title, or both, if—

1 “(I) death results from the of-
2 fense; or

3 “(II) the offense includes kid-
4 naping or an attempt to kidnap, ag-
5 gravated sexual abuse or an attempt
6 to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or
7 an attempt to kill.

8 “(B) CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED.—For
9 purposes of subparagraph (A), the cir-
10 cumstances described in this subparagraph are
11 that—

12 “(i) the conduct described in subpara-
13 graph (A) occurs during the course of, or
14 as the result of, the travel of the defendant
15 or the victim—

16 “(I) across a State line or na-
17 tional border; or

18 “(II) using a channel, facility, or
19 instrumentality of interstate or for-
20 eign commerce;

21 “(ii) the defendant uses a channel, fa-
22 cility, or instrumentality of interstate or
23 foreign commerce in connection with the
24 conduct described in subparagraph (A);

1 “(iii) in connection with the conduct
2 described in subparagraph (A), the defend-
3 ant employs a firearm, explosive or incen-
4 diary device, or other weapon that has
5 traveled in interstate or foreign commerce;
6 or

7 “(iv) the conduct described in sub-
8 paragraph (A)—

9 “(I) interferes with commercial
10 or other economic activity in which
11 the victim is engaged at the time of
12 the conduct; or

13 “(II) otherwise affects interstate
14 or foreign commerce.

15 “(b) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—No prosecu-
16 tion of any offense described in this subsection may be
17 undertaken by the United States, except under the certifi-
18 cation in writing of the Attorney General, the Deputy At-
19 torney General, the Associate Attorney General, or any
20 Assistant Attorney General specially designated by the At-
21 torney General that—

22 “(1) such certifying individual has reasonable
23 cause to believe that the actual or perceived race,
24 color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual ori-
25 entation, gender identity, or disability of any person

1 was a motivating factor underlying the alleged con-
2 duct of the defendant; and

3 “(2) such certifying individual has consulted
4 with State or local law enforcement officials regard-
5 ing the prosecution and determined that—

6 “(A) the State does not have jurisdiction
7 or does not intend to exercise jurisdiction;

8 “(B) the State has requested that the Fed-
9 eral Government assume jurisdiction;

10 “(C) the State does not object to the Fed-
11 eral Government assuming jurisdiction; or

12 “(D) the verdict or sentence obtained pur-
13 suant to State charges left demonstratively
14 unvindicated the Federal interest in eradicating
15 bias-motivated violence.

16 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

17 “(1) the term ‘explosive or incendiary device’
18 has the meaning given such term in section 232 of
19 this title;

20 “(2) the term ‘firearm’ has the meaning given
21 such term in section 921(a) of this title; and

22 “(3) the term ‘gender identity’ for the purposes
23 of this chapter means actual or perceived gender-re-
24 lated characteristics.

1 “(d) **RULE OF EVIDENCE.**—In a prosecution for an
2 offense under this section, evidence of expression or asso-
3 ciations of the defendant may not be introduced as sub-
4 stantive evidence at trial, unless the evidence specifically
5 relates to that offense. However, nothing in this section
6 affects the rules of evidence governing impeachment of a
7 witness.”.

8 (b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—
9 The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 13 of
10 title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
11 end the following new item:

“249. Hate crime acts.”.

12 **SEC. 7. SEVERABILITY.**

13 If any provision of this Act, an amendment made by
14 this Act, or the application of such provision or amend-
15 ment to any person or circumstance is held to be unconsti-
16 tutional, the remainder of this Act, the amendments made
17 by this Act, and the application of the provisions of such
18 to any person or circumstance shall not be affected there-
19 by.

20 **SEC. 8. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

21 Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this
22 Act, shall be construed to prohibit any expressive conduct
23 protected from legal prohibition by, or any activities pro-

- 1 tected by the free speech or free exercise clauses of, the
- 2 First Amendment to the Constitution.

Passed the House of Representatives May 3, 2007.

Attest:

Clerk.

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