

STATE OF NEW YORK

2139

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 15, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BERGER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the civil rights law, in relation to enacting the "Honoring Our Pledge to Eliminate Anti-Semitism (HOPE) act"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Honoring
2 Our Pledge to Eliminate Anti-Semitism (HOPE) act".

3 § 2. The civil rights law is amended by adding a new section 79-r to
4 read as follows:

5 § 79-r. Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
6 definition of anti-Semitism. 1. As used in this section, the following
7 terms shall have the following meanings:

8 (a) "Anti-Semitism" shall have the same meaning as provided for in the
9 working definition of anti-Semitism adopted by the International Holo-
10 caust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) on May twenty-sixth, two thousand
11 sixteen, and shall include the contemporary examples of anti-Semitism
12 set forth therein.

13 (b) "State agency" shall mean any office, department, board, commis-
14 sion, bureau, division, public corporation, agency or instrumentality of
15 the state.

16 2. In reviewing, investigating, or deciding whether there has been a
17 violation of any non-criminal or criminal law, rule, or policy prohibit-
18 ing discriminatory acts, a state agency or court shall take into consid-
19 eration the definition of anti-Semitism as set forth in this section for
20 purposes of determining whether an alleged act was motivated by discri-
21 minatory anti-Semitic intent, including but not limited to claims
22 brought pursuant to article fifteen of the executive law or article four
23 hundred eighty-five of the penal law.

24 3. A state agency or court shall apply the same legal standard as
25 applicable to like claims of discrimination arising under laws of this

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 state, including article fifteen of the executive law or article four
2 hundred eighty-five of the penal law.

3 4. For the purposes of training of state personnel related to discrim-
4 ination and anti-bias training, the definition of anti-Semitism
5 described in this section shall be used as an educational tool to famil-
6 iarize staff and officials with anti-Semitism.

7 5. This section shall not be construed to diminish or infringe upon
8 any right protected under the first amendment to the United States
9 Constitution, or the Constitution of the state of New York, and shall
10 not be construed to conflict with federal, state, or local discrimi-
11 nation laws.

12 § 3. This act shall take effect immediately.