STATE OF NEW YORK

4620

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 10, 2025

Introduced by Sen. WEIK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to designating offenses against law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical services personnel as hate crimes

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

Section 1. Subdivisions 1, 2 and 4 of section 485.05 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 8 of the laws of 2019, are amended to read as follows:

1. A person commits a hate crime when [~~he or she~~] **such person** commits a specified offense and either:

(a) intentionally selects the person against whom the offense is committed or intended to be committed in whole or in substantial part because of a belief or perception regarding the **(i)** race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation of a person **or (ii) because of actual or perceived employment as a law enforcement officer, a firefighter or as emergency medical services personnel**, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct, or

(b) intentionally commits the act or acts constituting the offense in whole or in substantial part because of a belief or perception regarding the **(i)** race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation of a person **or (ii) because of actual or perceived employment as a law enforcement officer, a firefighter or as emergency medical services personnel**, regardless of whether the belief or perception is correct.

2. Proof of race, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, religious practice, age, disability or sexual orientation **or employment as a law enforcement officer, a fire-**

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

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fighter or as emergency medical services personnel of the defendant, the victim or of both the defendant and the victim does not, by itself, constitute legally sufficient evidence satisfying the people's burden under paragraph (a) or (b) of subdivision one of this section.

4. For purposes of this section:

(a) the term "age" means sixty years old or more;

(b) the term "disability" means a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity;

(c) the term "gender identity or expression" means a person's actual or perceived gender-related identity, appearance, behavior, expression, or other gender-related characteristic regardless of the sex assigned to that person at birth, including, but not limited to, the status of being transgender;

(d) the term "law enforcement officer" means any active or retired city or state law enforcement officer, peace officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, probation or parole officer, marshal, deputy, wildlife enforcement agency, county or state correctional officer, fire marshal or commissioned agent of the department of corrections and community supervision, as well as any federal law enforcement officer or employee, whose permanent duties include making arrests, performing search and seizures, execution of criminal arrest warrants, execution of civil seizure warrants, any civil functions performed by sheriffs or deputy sheriffs, enforcement of penal or traffic laws, or the care, custody, control or supervision of incarcerated individuals;

(e) the term "firefighter" means (i) any firefighter regularly employed by a fire department of any municipality of the state of New York and (ii) any volunteer firefighter as defined in subdivision one of section three of the volunteer firefighters' benefit law; and

(f) the term "emergency medical services personnel" means the personnel of a service or agency, whether paid or volunteer, engaged in providing initial emergency medical assistance, including but not limited to first responders, emergency medical technicians and advanced emergency medical technicians.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.