



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

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Secretary

MEETING MINUTES
TASK FORCE ON HATE CRIMES

Date: June 26, 2023

Time: 2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Virtual Location: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only) [857-327-9245](tel:857-327-9245) Phone Conference ID: 431 486 113#

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

	Membership	Present	Absent	Meeting Minutes
1	Co-Chair Jennifer Roedel	X		X
2	Co-Chair Josh Kraft	X		X
3	Vacant			
4	Ana Javier	X		X
5	Vacant			
6	Margaret Rwaramba	X		X
7	Chief Kelly Nee	X		X
8	Officer Israul "Izzy" Marrero	X		X
9	Anna Johnson		X	
10	Timothy Moran		X	
11	Genevieve Nadeau	X		X
12	Emily Todisco	X		X
13	Anne Gilligan	X		X
14	Representative Brandy Fluker Oakley*			
15	Vacant		X	
16	Bethany Li	X		X
17	Tonomey Coleman	X		X
18	Dr. Margery Davies	X		X
19	Chief Jody Kasper	X		X
20	Bishop Talbert Swan II	X		X
21	Sheriff Frank Cousins		X	

22	Representative Steven Howitt	X		X
23	Jennifer Cotter		X	
24	Robert Trestan	X		X
25	Dara Kaufman	X		X
26	Dr. Nawal Nour	X		X
27	DA Anthony Gulluni	X		X

* Legislative Aide Stefanie Caros

EOPSS Staff: Suleyken Walker, Anjeza Xhemollari, Cliff Goodband and William Ramsdell

2. Welcome

Co-Chairs welcomed all Task Force members and attendance was taken. A quorum was present to continue with the meeting

3. Review and Approval of Draft Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2023

Kelly Nee made a motion to approve the draft meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Josh Kraft. Roll call was taken. The meeting minutes were approved.

4. EOPSS, Legislation Overview on Hate Crimes

Cliff Goodband (Data Collection) and William Ramsdell (Legislative) provide a general update of the Data Collection and Legislation Overview.

Cliff Goodband describes the process of how the data is collected from different police departments. Cliff Goodband elaborates on the annual reports conducted by EOPSS and provides data from previous years.

- In 2022, 439 incidents were reported by 99 agencies.
- 279 agencies submitted “zero reports”.
- 439 incidents were an increase from 2021 when 412 incidents were reported.

Members of the Task Force were inquiring into the data that is not collected by police departments and inquired into the process of how the data gets submitted once a case is indicted by the grand jury. A Subcommittee was created to look further into the collection process.

William Ramsdell provided a legislative update of the pending bills in connection with Hate Crimes.

HB1392 - An Act to amend the definition of Hate Crime [Bill H.1392 \(malegislature.gov\)](http://malegislature.gov)

Filed by Representative Christine Barber

Status: Currently with the Joint Committee on the Judiciary (Hearing Date Pending)

Bill Summary:

Amends MGL Chapter 265 Section 39 (Assault or battery for the purpose of intimidation) to add that if restitution is ordered to repair damages to property, the money must be used to repair such damages.

Companion Bills: SB924 Filed by Sen Cynthia Stone-Creem Bill S.924 (malegislature.gov)

Refile (Y/N): Yes, this bill was filed in 2021-2022 (HB1392)

Previous Outcome: Accompanied to a study order

HB1704 - An Act to reform the hate crime statutes [Bill H.1704 \(malegislature.gov\)](http://malegislature.gov)

Filed by Representative Tram Nguyen

Status: Currently with the Joint Committee on the Judiciary (Hearing Date Pending)

Bill Summary:

Creates new mandate for Hate Crimes Task Force:

Identify and recommend best practices for hate crime prevention, restorative justice programs, culturally competent outreach and reporting mechanisms, and data collection for both adults and juveniles, including those that can be implemented by police, prosecutors, judges, school officials, state agencies, community groups and others;

Amends Crime Reporting Unit responsibilities to include collecting data quarterly and from more agencies including community and advocacy groups and to report this data more frequently – quarterly and annually. Creates more robust central repository with more detailed guidelines for collecting and reviewing the data, as set forth in regulations to be promulgated by the Colonel.

Amends Crimes Against Persons, including Violation of Constitutional Rights and Assault or Battery for Purposes of Intimidation. Creates increased penalties for violation of such crimes and allows for participation in restorative justice programs if convicted of these offenses.

Companion Bills: SB996 filed by Senator Adam Gomez Bill S.996 (malegislature.gov)

Refile (Y/N) Yes, this bill was filed in 2021-2022 (HB1819)

Previous Outcome: Accompanied to a study order

HB1418 - An Act relative to restraining orders as they pertain to hate crimes [Bill H.1418 \(malegislature.gov\)](http://malegislature.gov)

Filed by: Representative Tackey Chan

Status: Currently with the Joint Committee on the Judiciary (Hearing was held on 5/16 - No oral testimony offered)

Bill Summary:

Amends the Hate Crime Assault and Battery statute for the purpose of intimidation to include assault upon a relative of a protected person as a crime. Also amends abuse prevention orders to provide that crimes causing a deprivation of constitutional rights and assault or battery for purpose of intimidation constitute harassment under GL 258E.

Companion Bills: N/A

Refile (Y/N) No, this is a new bill

HB1473 - An Act to advance hate-crime protection for victims who are targeted due to their gender [Bill H.1473 \(malegislature.gov\)](http://malegislature.gov)

Filed by: Representative Michelle DuBois

Status: Currently with the Joint Committee on the Judiciary (Hearing Date Pending)

Bill Summary:

Amends the Hate Crime Assault and Battery Statute by inserting the word "gender" after the words "national origin"

MGL Section 39. (a) Whoever commits an assault or a battery upon a person or damages the real or personal property of a person with the intent to intimidate such person because of such person's race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability shall be punished by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than two and one-half years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Companion Bills: N/A

Refile (Y/N) No, this is a new bill

HB1766 - An Act regulating sentencing for hate crimes [Bill H.1766 \(malegislature.gov\)](http://malegislature.gov)

Filed by: Representative Priscilla Sousa

Status: Currently with the Joint Committee on the Judiciary (Hearing was held on 5/16, Representative Sousa and District Attorney Marian Ryan offered testimony in support of this bill)

Bill Summary:

Expands an existing mandatory diversity awareness program for individuals convicted of a hate crime to include those convicted of violating an individual's constitutional rights. Additionally requires participation in the program for individuals who received a continuance without a finding under either section.

Also includes a punishment of imprisonment for 10 years and a fine of ten thousand dollars (or both) if a person is convicted of a hate crime as defined under MGL Section 37 Chapter 265.

Companion Bills: N/A

Refile (Y/N) No, this is a new bill

HB2315 - An Act further defining a hate crime [Bill H.2315 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

Filed by: Representative David DeCoste

Status: Currently with the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security (Hearing Date Pending)

Bill Summary:

Adds an attack on a police officer that results in serious injury to the definition of a hate crime. "Hate crime", any criminal act coupled with overt actions motivated by bigotry and bias including, but not limited to, a threatened, attempted or completed overt act motivated at least in part by racial, religious, ethnic, handicap, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation prejudice, or which otherwise deprives another person of his constitutional rights by threats, intimidation or coercion, or which seek to interfere with or disrupt a person's exercise of constitutional rights through harassment or intimidation, "or an **attack on a police officer which results in serious injury or death**" Hate crime shall also include, but not be limited to, acts that constitute violations of sections thirty-seven and thirty-nine of chapter two hundred and sixty-five, section one hundred and twenty-seven A of chapter two hundred and sixty-six and chapter two hundred and seventy-two.

Companion Bills: N/A

Refile (Y/N) No, this is a new bill

SB914 - An Act relative to the addition of sex and gender as protected class categories for hate crime prosecutions [Bill S.914 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

Filed by: Senator Will Brownsberger

Status: Currently with the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security (Hearing Date Pending)

Bill Summary:

Amends the Assault and Battery Statute by adding after the words "national origin" the words "sex, gender"

Section 39. (a) Whoever commits an assault or a battery upon a person or damages the real or personal property of a person with the intent to intimidate such person because of such person's race, color, religion, national origin, **sex, gender** sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability shall be punished by a fine of not more than five thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than two and one-half years, or by both such fine and imprisonment. The court may also order restitution to the victim in any amount up to three times the value of property damage sustained by the owners of such property. For the purposes of this section, the term "disability" shall have the same meaning as "handicap" as defined in subsection 17 of section one of chapter one hundred and fifty-one B; provided, however, that for purposes of this section, the term "disability" shall not include any condition primarily resulting from the use of alcohol or a controlled substance as defined in section one of chapter ninety-four C.

Companion Bills: N/A

Refile (Y/N) No, this is a new bill

SB986 - An Act relative to hate crimes against police officers [Bill S.986 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

Filed by: Senator Anne Gobi

Status: Currently with the Joint Committee on the Judiciary (Hearing Date Pending)

Bill Summary:

Amends the definition of a hate crime by adding after the words "sexual orientation prejudice" the words "or actual perceived employment as a police officer"

“Hate crime”, any criminal act coupled with overt actions motivated by bigotry and bias including, but not limited to, a threatened, attempted or completed overt act motivated at least in part by racial, religious, ethnic, handicap, gender, gender identity or sexual orientation prejudice, **or actual perceived employment as a police officer**, or which otherwise deprives another person of his constitutional rights by threats, intimidation or coercion, or which seek to interfere with or disrupt a person's exercise of constitutional rights through harassment or intimidation. Hate crime shall also include, but not be limited to, acts that constitute violations of sections thirty-seven and thirty-nine of chapter two hundred and sixty-five, section one hundred and twenty-seven A of chapter two hundred and sixty-six and chapter two hundred and seventy-two.

Companion Bills: N/A

Refile (Y/N) No, this is a new bill

SB1121 - An Act relative to hate crimes [Bill S.1121 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

Filed by: Senator Bruce Tarr

Status: Currently with the Joint Committee on the Judiciary (Hearing Date Pending)

Bill Summary:

Amends Hate Crime Assault and Battery Statute by increasing penalties and fines assault and battery [General Law - Part IV, Title I, Chapter 265, Section 39 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

Companion Bills: N/A

Refile (Y/N) No, this is a new bill

Links:

[The 193rd General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts \(malegislature.gov\)](#) – Website (this is the data base for all Massachusetts laws and legislation)

[Dashboard – InstaTrac](#) - InstaTrac (alternative to malegislature.gov NOTE: requires subscription)

[Chapter 265 \(malegislature.gov\)](#) - MGL (Massachusetts General Law) Chapter 265 – Crimes Against the Person

[General Law - Part I, Title II, Chapter 22C, Section 32 \(malegislature.gov\)](#) – Definition of a Hate Crime

[General Law - Part IV, Title I, Chapter 265, Section 39 \(malegislature.gov\)](#) – Hate Crime Penalties and Punishments

HB1392 - An Act to amend the definition of hate crime [Bill H.1392 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

HB1704 - An Act to reform the hate crime statutes [Bill H.1704 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

HB1418 - An Act relative to restraining orders as they pertain to hate crimes [Bill H.1418 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

HB1473 - An Act to advance hate-crime protection for victims who are targeted due to their gender [Bill H.1473 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

HB1766 - An Act regulating sentencing for hate crimes [Bill H.1766 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

HB2315 - An Act further defining a hate crime [Bill H.2315 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

SB914 - An Act relative to the addition of sex and gender as protected class categories for hate crime prosecutions [Bill S.914 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

SB986 - An Act relative to hate crimes against police officers [Bill S.986 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

SB1121 - An Act relative to hate crimes [Bill S.1121 \(malegislature.gov\)](#)

5. Discussion of the Task Force Goals and Objectives

Members of the Task Force agreed to create Subcommittees and work collectively in addressing data collection, different ways of supporting victims of Hate Crime, and pending legislation.

Legislative Subcommittee Membership

1. Robert Trestan
2. Anthony Gulluni
3. Kelly Nee
4. Bethany Li
5. Tonomey Coleman
6. Emily Todisco

Victim Support Subcommittee Membership

1. Robert Trestan
2. Anthony Gulluni
3. Dara Kaufman
4. Nawal Nour
5. Izzy Marrero
6. Ana Javier
7. Margaret Rwaramba
8. Anna Johnson

Data Oversight Subcommittee Membership

1. Josh Kraft
2. Bishop Talbert Swan II
3. Emily Todisco
4. Ana Javier
5. Representative Brandy Fluker Oakley

Cliff Goodband (EOPSS Support to Data Oversight Subcommittee)

Anjeza Xhemollari will follow up in scheduling the subcommittee meetings over the summer months.

6. Open Session for Topics not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 Hours of the Meeting

N/A

7. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 3:15 p.m.