DIGEST

HB 953 Original   2016 Regular Session   Lance Harris

Abstract: Amends definition of hate crimes to include selection of the victim based upon the status as a law enforcement officer or firefighter.

Present law defines hate crimes as certain enumerated criminal offenses in which the victim is selected because of that person's actual or perceived race, age, gender, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, creed, sexual orientation or organizational affiliation.

Proposed law retains present law and adds the victim is selected based upon their actual or perceived employment as a law enforcement officer or firefighter. Defines "firefighter" and "law enforcement officer".

Present law provides that if the underlying offense is a misdemeanor, and the victim is selected in the proscribed manner, the offender may receive an additional consecutive sentence of imprisonment for not more than six months, a fine of not more than $500, or both.

Present law provides that if the underlying offense is a felony, and the victim is selected in the proscribed manner, the offender may receive an additional consecutive sentence of imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than five years, a fine of not more than $5,000, or both.

(Amends R.S. 14:107.2(A); Adds R.S. 14:107.2(E))