
DIGEST

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HB 953 Reengrossed

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, firefighter, or emergency medical services personnel.

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, firefighter, or emergency medical services personnel. Defines "emergency medical services personnel", "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))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Add emergency medical services personnel to the list of possible victims of this offense if they are selected based upon their actual or perceived employment.
2. Define "emergency medical services personnel".
3. Clarify language in the definition of "law enforcement officer" relative to the duties of those persons listed in the definition.
4. Make technical corrections.