



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

LRB-5002/P1
CMH:kjf

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 939.645 (1) (b) and 939.645 (4) of the statutes; **relating to:**
2 expanding the definition of hate crime victims to include law enforcement
3 officers.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill expands the persons who can be a victim of what is commonly known as a "hate crime" to include law enforcement officers. A hate crime is a crime in which the perpetrator selects the victim due to a perception or belief regarding the victim, such as the victim's race, religion, color, or disability, or, under this bill, status as a law enforcement officer.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

4 **SECTION 1.** 939.645 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:
5 939.645 (1) (b) Intentionally selects the person against whom the crime under
6 par. (a) is committed or selects the property that is damaged or otherwise affected by
7 the crime under par. (a) in whole or in part because of the actor's belief or perception
8 regarding the race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or

1 ancestry of that person or the owner or occupant of that property, or because of the
2 actor's belief or perception that the person or the owner or occupant of that property
3 is employed as a law enforcement officer, whether or not the actor's belief or
4 perception was correct.

5 **SECTION 2.** 939.645 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

6 939.645 (4) This section does not apply to any crime if proof of race, religion,
7 color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin ~~or~~, ancestry, or employment
8 status or proof of any person's perception or belief regarding another's race, religion,
9 color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin ~~or~~, ancestry, or employment
10 status is required for a conviction for that crime.

11 **SECTION 3. Initial applicability.**

12 (1) This act first applies to actions committed on the effective date of this
13 subsection.

14 (END)