

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

**S.F. No. 1978**

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOWE, Koran and Lang)

DATE  
03/04/2019

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OFFICIAL STATUS  
Introduction and first reading  
Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to public safety; establishing the crime of falsely reporting a crime  
1.3 motivated by bias; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 609.505, by adding  
1.4 a subdivision.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 609.505, is amended by adding a subdivision  
1.7 to read:

1.8 Subd. 3. False reporting of bias crime. (a) Whoever causes information to be  
1.9 communicated to a peace officer, knowing that the person is a peace officer, that a crime  
1.10 motivated by bias has been committed, knowing that the information is false, is guilty of a  
1.11 gross misdemeanor.

1.12 (b) For purposes of this subdivision, "peace officer" has the meaning given in section  
1.13 626.84, subdivision 1, paragraph (c).

1.14 (c) For purposes of this subdivision, "crime motivated by bias" means that the offender  
1.15 intentionally selected the victim or the property against which the offence was committed,  
1.16 in whole or in part, because of the victim's, the property owner's, or another's actual or  
1.17 perceived race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability as defined in section  
1.18 363A.03, age, or national origin. A crime motivated by bias includes, but is not limited to,  
1.19 violations of section 609.221; 609.222; 609.223; 609.2231, subdivision 4; 609.595,  
1.20 subdivision 1a; 609.748, subdivision 6, paragraph (d), clause (2); or 609.749, subdivision  
1.21 3, paragraph (a), clause (1).

1.22 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2019, and applies to crimes  
1.23 committed on or after that date.