

# The Hate Crimes Prevention Act, H354 Introduced by Representatives Nasif Majeed, Verla Insko, and Graig Meyer



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## March 31, 2021

### Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County



## NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021

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### **The Hate Crimes Prevention Act, H354 Introduced by Representatives Nasif Majeed, Verla Insko, and Graig Meyer**

**Raleigh:** Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> at 9am, Representatives Majeed, Insko, and Meyer came together with community leaders and victims to introduce The Hate Crimes Prevention Act. This new bill is an updated version of hate crime legislation Representative Majeed introduced in the 2019-20 legislative session. Additionally, H354 incorporates restorative justice, something no other legislation has included.

The legislation includes:

- Increase the scope of hate crimes to include **disability, gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity**.
- Increase the punishment for a hate crime to include Class H or Class E felony.
- Incorporate restorative justice, at the victim's discretion, to give offenders an opportunity to take responsibility for their acts, understand the harm created, and undergo remediation.
- Require the establishment/funding of a Hate Crimes Database in the State Bureau of Investigations (SBI) to collect, analyze, and disseminate information; and create/fund a position to manage it.
- Require all State and local law enforcement agencies to report hate crimes monthly to the SBI.
- Require the SBI to submit a report to the General Assembly annually and publish a copy of the report on the agency website.
- Require the North Carolina Justice Academy to provide training to law enforcement on how to identify, respond to, and report a hate crime.
- Require training for prosecutors on prosecuting hate crimes.

Today marked a historic moment in hate crimes prevention moving beyond punishment to restoring the health of the community and providing justice for victims.

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