H. R. 6721

To facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 5, 2020

Ms. Meng (for herself, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Mr. Lowenthal, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Pascrell, Ms. Lee of California, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Engel, Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Espaillat, Mr. Blumenauer, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Mr. Lynch, Mrs. Napolitano, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Kilmer, Mr. Suozzi, Ms. Jackson Lee, and Mr. Cisneros) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act”.

SEC. 2. REVIEW OF COVID–19 HATE CRIMES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General
shall designate an officer or employee of the Department of Justice whose sole responsibility during the applicable period shall be to facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes and reports of any such crime to Federal, State, or local law enforcement agencies.

(b) REPORT.—On the date that is 30 days after the designation under subsection (a), and every 30 days thereafter, the officer or employee shall submit to Congress a report on the status of each case reviewed under subsection (a), including—

(1) any resources provided to complainants;

(2) any actions taken to further the investigation of the incidents; and

(3) data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic background, of the victim and location of occurrence.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “applicable period” means the period beginning on the date on which the officer or employee is designated under subsection (a), and ending on the date that is one year after the date on which the emergency period described in subparagraph (B) of section 1135(g)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–5(g)(1)) ends, except
that the Attorney General may extend such period as appropriate.

(2) The term “COVID–19 hate crime” means a crime of violence (as such term is defined under title 18, United States Code) that is motivated by—

(A) the actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability of any person; and

(B) the actual or perceived relationship to the spread of COVID–19 of any person because of the characteristic described in subparagraph (A).