

**Calendar No. 13**117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION**S. 937**

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

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**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES**

MARCH 23, 2021

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. REED, and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

MARCH 24, 2021

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

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**A BILL**

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

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 day after the  
6 date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall  
7 designate an officer or employee of the Department of  
8 Justice whose sole responsibility during the applicable pe-  
9 riod shall be to facilitate the expedited review of COVID–  
10 19 hate crimes and reports of any such crime to Federal,  
11 State, or local law enforcement agencies.

12 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) APPLICABLE PERIOD.—The term “applica-  
14 ble period” means the period beginning on the date  
15 on which the officer or employee is designated under  
16 subsection (a), and ending on the date that is 1 year  
17 after the date on which the emergency period de-  
18 scribed in subparagraph (B) of section 1135(g)(1) of  
19 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–5(g)(1))  
20 ends, except that the Attorney General may extend  
21 such period as appropriate.

22 (2) COVID–19 HATE CRIME.—The term  
23 “COVID–19 hate crime” means a crime of violence  
24 (as such term is defined in section 16 of 18, United  
25 States Code) that is motivated by—

1 (A) the actual or perceived race, ethnicity,  
2 age, color, religion, national origin, sexual ori-  
3 entation, gender, gender identity, or disability  
4 of any person; and

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

9 **SEC. 3. GUIDANCE.**

10 (a) **GUIDANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGEN-**  
11 **CIES.**—The Attorney General shall issue guidance for  
12 State and local law enforcement agencies on how to—

13 (1) establish online reporting of hate crimes or  
14 incidents, and to have online reporting available in  
15 multiple languages as determined by the Attorney  
16 General; and

17 (2) expand culturally competent and linguis-  
18 tically appropriate public education campaigns, and  
19 collection of data and public reporting of hate  
20 crimes.

21 (b) **GUIDANCE RELATING TO COVID–19 PAN-**  
22 **DEMIC.**—The Attorney General and the Secretary of  
23 Health and Human Services, in coordination with the  
24 COVID–19 Health Equity Task Force and community-  
25 based organizations, shall issue guidance describing best

- 1 practices to mitigate racially discriminatory language in
- 2 describing the COVID–19 pandemic.



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