

**BIAS INCIDENT REPORTING**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Doug Owens**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates the bias incident hotline program.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ directs the Department of Public Safety to create the bias incident hotline program;
- ▶ directs the Management Information Services Division to operate the bias incident hotline program; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53-1-304**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 1993, Chapter 234

ENACTS:

**53-1-305**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **53-1-304** is amended to read:



28 **53-1-304. Division duties.**

29 The division shall:

30 (1) provide technical support for the department's various computer systems, including  
31 computer software, hardware, and networking support;

32 (2) provide access to the National Crime Information Center, National Law  
33 Enforcement Telecommunication System, which provides electronic mail messaging  
34 capabilities to law enforcement agencies throughout the nation, and to National Commercial  
35 Driver License Information;

36 (3) create information systems for public safety information;

37 (4) provide programming support as required by the department;

38 (5) design systems and programs to maximize the efficiency of the department;

39 (6) provide law enforcement officers and criminal justice agencies access to public  
40 safety information that will assist in protecting the public;

41 (7) operate the bias incident hotline program described in Section 53-1-305; and

42 [~~(7)~~] (8) other duties as assigned by the commissioner.

43 Section 2. Section **53-1-305** is enacted to read:

44 **53-1-305. Bias incident hotline program.**

45 (1) As used in this section:

46 (a) "Bias incident" means a hostile expression of animus by an individual toward  
47 another individual that:

48 (i) does not rise to the level of a criminal offense; and

49 (ii) is motivated by a bias against a race, a religion, an ethnic or national origin group, a  
50 sexual orientation group, or a disability.

51 (b) "National Incident-Based Reporting System" means the system operated by the  
52 Bureau of Justice established in 34 U.S.C. Sec. 10132.

53 (c) "Utah 211" means the designated 211 service provider created in Section  
54 62A-17-104.

55 (2) The department shall:

56 (a) coordinate with Utah 211 to establish a hotline for the reporting of a bias incident;

57 (b) create an online form for the reporting of a bias incident that:

58 (i) follows the format used by the National Incident-Based Reporting System; and

59           (ii) refers an individual who completes the form to Utah 211; and  
60           (c) collect and publicly report on the department's website anonymized data collected  
61 under this section.

62           Section 3. **Effective date.**

63           This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.