



End Hate Crimes Against LGBT Virginians - Support SB 82

LGBT Virginians deserve the same protections against violence as all other citizens.

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

- SB 82 includes within the definition of "hate crime" a criminal act committed against a person because of sexual orientation or gender identification.
- The bill also requires the reporting of the commission of such crime to the Virginia State Police.
- Lastly, the bill requires the Superintendent of the state police to establish and maintain within the Department of State Police a central repository for the collection and analysis of information regarding hate crimes and groups and individuals carrying out such acts.

THE FACTS:

- In 2014, the FBI reported that 21.3% of reported hate crimes in the United States were against LGBT Americans.¹
- In 2014, the Virginia State Police reported that of the 128 reported hate crimes in the Commonwealth throughout the year, 22 were a result of the victim's sexual orientation.²
- As of December 23, 2015, 16 states and the District of Columbia passed laws to protect citizens from hate crimes based on their gender identity or sexual orientation.³
- Another 14 states have passed laws to protect citizens against hate crimes due to sexual orientation.⁴
- Currently, Virginia provides no hate crime protections to its LGBT citizens.

WHY WE SUPPORT IT:

- All Virginians, including LGBT people, deserve to live without the fear of being subjected to a hate crime.
- Including sexual orientation and gender identity under the definition of a hate crime, will allow for harsher punishments for perpetrators including felony convictions.
- Tracking data of hate related crimes against LGBT citizens will allow police to discern patterns and anticipate potential hate related crimes in certain geographic areas.

¹ <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/december/latest-hate-crime-statistics-report-released>

² http://www.vsp.state.va.us/downloads/Crime_in_Virginia/Crime_in_Virginia_2014.pdf

³ http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/hate_crime_laws

⁴ http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/hate_crime_laws

Equality Virginia is a state-wide, non-partisan advocacy, outreach, and education organization leading the Commonwealth toward equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Virginians.