

ASSEMBLY PUBLIC SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 1921**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 27, 2025

The Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 1921.

This committee substitute concerns the Attorney General guidelines on bias incident investigation standards.

Under the committee substitute, the Office of the Attorney General is to maintain and periodically review the guidelines on bias incident investigation standards, revise the guidelines as needed, and ensure that the Superintendent of State Police and every county and municipal law enforcement agency and county and municipal prosecutor are provided with prompt notice of any revisions to the guidelines on bias incident investigation standards.

The committee substitute requires the guidelines to, at a minimum:

- require county and municipal law enforcement agencies to report all confirmed or suspected bias incidents through the Electronic Uniform Crime Reporting system within 24 hours and provide immediate notification to the Attorney General and the county prosecutor when the suspected or confirmed bias incident involves certain circumstances, as determined by the Attorney General;
- require county prosecutors to promptly notify the Attorney General when they intend to file an accusation or seek an indictment alleging bias intimidation;
- establish procedures for initial and follow-up investigations of a reported bias incident including the responsibilities of an investigator or a supervisor upon the arrival at the scene;
- establish criteria for law enforcement officers to apply in confirming a bias incident;
- establish requirements for providing instant notification, through means that the Attorney General deems appropriate, to the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, the Division of State Police, the Division of Criminal Justice, and the bias crime officers of each county prosecutor's office;

- ensure that a victim of a bias incident receives appropriate information and referral to the Division on Civil Rights when the incident involves a suspected or confirmed violation of the “Law Against Discrimination”; and
- include provisions for training and continuing education for law enforcement officers on detecting and reporting bias incidents and investigating and prosecuting bias crimes.