

SENATE BILL 1497

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38,
relative to law enforcement officers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 38-8-106, is amended by deleting subdivision (8) and substituting instead the following:

(8) Have a good moral character as determined by a thorough investigation conducted by the employing agency. For purposes of this section, a person is not deemed to have good moral character if the person is a member of a hate group or terrorist organization, as determined by the employing agency. It is not the intent of this subdivision (8) to interfere with the exercise of rights protected by the Constitution of the United States. As used in this subdivision (8), "hate group" means an organization whose primary purpose is to promote animosity, hostility, and malice against a person or persons, or against the property of a person or persons, because of race, religion, disability, ethnicity, or national origin; and

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 8, Part 3, is amended by adding the following new section:

Membership in a hate group or terrorist organization, as determined by the employing agency, is sufficient grounds for termination of a law enforcement officer for lack of good moral character. It is not the intent of this section to interfere with the exercise of rights protected by the Constitution of the United States. As used in this section, "hate group" means an organization whose primary purpose is to promote animosity, hostility, and malice against a person or persons, or against the property of a person or persons, because of race, religion, disability, ethnicity, or national origin.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.