

Date of Hearing: April 7, 2026

Counsel: Dustin Weber

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Nick Schultz, Chair

AB 2347 (Ahrens) – As Introduced February 19, 2026

SUMMARY: Requires the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POST) to conduct a comprehensive review of hate crimes training programs and adopt evidence-based training requirements to fill any gaps in the handling of hate crimes, as specified. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) States that beginning January 1, 2027, the POST shall conduct a comprehensive review of existing hate crimes training programs offered to law enforcement officers (LEO's) who are employed as peace officers, or who are enrolled in the basic course. The review shall be completed by January 1, 2029.
- 2) Requires the review shall do all the following:
 - a) Evaluate disparities in hate crime data collection.
 - b) Evaluate the effectiveness of law enforcement's response to hate crimes.
 - c) Evaluate the efficacy of existing POST trainings on hate crimes.
- 3) Provides that by July 1, 2029, POST shall adopt evidence-based training requirements to address the gaps identified in the report regarding the prevention, identification, and investigation of hate crimes.
- 4) Defines "hate crime" as have the same meaning as in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) States that POST shall develop rules establishing and upholding minimum standards relating to physical, mental, and moral fitness that shall govern defined peace officers. (Pen. Code, § 13510, subd. (a)(1).)
- 2) States that POST also shall adopt minimum standards for training of defined peace officers. (Pen. Code, § 13510, subd. (a)(2).)
- 3) Requires POST to establish a certification program for peace officers, as defined. (Pen. Code, § 13510.1, subd. (a).)
- 4) States that POST shall develop guidelines and a course of instruction and training for law enforcement officers addressing hate crimes. (Pen. Code, § 13519.6, subd. (a)(1).)

- 5) States that POST shall determine whether every city, county, city and county, and district is adhering to the standards for recruitment, training, certification, and reporting. (Pen. Code, § 13512, subd. (a).)
- 6) Requires POST to develop an updated continuing education classroom training course relating to law enforcement interaction with persons with mental disabilities. (Pen. Code, § 13515.25, subd. (a).)
- 7) States that POST shall develop and disseminate guidelines and training for all peace officers in California on the racial and cultural differences among the residents of this state. (Pen. Code, § 13519.4, subd. (a).)
- 8) Establishes that POST shall develop and implement a course of training regarding sexual orientation and gender identity minority groups. (Pen. Code, § 13519.41, subd. (a).)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Author's Statement:** According to the author, “As a member of the Jewish community, I often find myself defending against hate crimes, as anti-Jewish sentiment persists today. This experience drives my desire to advocate for marginalized groups and confront prejudice.

“I believe in the importance of allyship and empathy for all facing discrimination. Law enforcement must receive evidence-based training to prevent hate crimes. Every individual deserves respect and dignity from law enforcement, regardless of their background. This legislation strengthens our criminal justice system and benefits the community by emphasizing data collection and proper officer training, promoting safer interactions.

“While we have made progress in addressing hate-related issues between law enforcement and civilians, more work remains. By continuing to collaborate, we can create lasting change.”

- 2) **Effect of the Bill:** AB 2347 would require POST to complete a comprehensive review of hate crimes training for law enforcement officers. Any gaps identified in the review must be addressed through the development of evidence-based training programs.

California has a robust set of training requirements for peace officers. As of a 2021 report, there were approximately 4,600 law enforcement training courses certified by POST.¹ This report sought to provide recommendations for improving elements of law enforcement training.² At least eleven separate recommendations were made in the report, including those involving incorporating more academic research into training programs, assessing training academies, rightsizing entry level officer training, developing robust continuing education opportunities, and creating a more representative POST.³

¹ *Law Enforcement Training: Identifying What Works for Officers and Communities* (Nov. 2021) Little Hoover Commission <<https://lhc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Reports/265/Report265.pdf>> [as of Mar. 27, 2026].

² *Ibid.*

³ *Id.* at pp. 3-4.

More than half of the roughly 65 bills introduced by the California Legislature in the decade preceding the report became law, which cumulatively required, among other things, “pre-employment training in principled policing, mental health, domestic violence, and gun violence restraining orders; added hours to on-the-job training for current officers; and mandated specialized training for maritime, campus, or tribal officers.”⁴ The report notes the legislature consistently set required topics for training and a required number of instructional hours but did not assess how the training received impacted on the job conduct by peace officers.⁵ Various stakeholders, including peace officers themselves, offered relatively broad support for incorporating additional academic research into officer training and improvement in monitoring of training outcomes.⁶

AB 2347 would not put a new, discrete training requirement for peace officers into statute. POST already provides training to officers on handling hate crimes. (Pen. Code, § 13519.6, subd. (a)(1).) A Hate Crimes Model Policy has been developed by POST that is available for review online.⁷ Included within the updated hate crimes training for officers is a Supplemental Hate Crimes Report that captures data specific to a potential hate crime.⁸ The policy notes, among other things, that agencies “will employ necessary resources and vigorous law enforcement action to identify and arrest hate crime perpetrators.”⁹ Also, in acknowledgement of the “particular fears and distress typically suffered by victims, the potential for reprisal and escalation of violence, and the far-reaching negative consequences of [hate] crimes on the community, agencies are expected to attend to the security and other concerns of the immediate victims and their families.”¹⁰

Rather than a new training requirement, AB 2347 largely reflects some of the recommended approaches, like evaluation of existing programs to officer training, from the 2021 Little Hoover Commission (LHC) report. Specifically, AB 2347’s reporting requirement includes evaluating disparities in hate crime data collection, the effectiveness of law enforcement’s response to hate crimes, and the efficacy of existing POST trainings on hate crimes. Following compilation of the report, POST would be required to adopt evidence-based approaches to address the gaps found in the report to improve prevention, identification, and investigation of hate crimes. While AB 2347 tracks some of the recommendations of the LHC report, it is unclear at this time whether this bill will create improvements in the prevention, identification, and investigation of hate crimes.

- 3) **Argument in Support:** According to the *California School Employees Association*, “Although law enforcement officers do receive hate crime training, this bill will help identify gaps in existing practices and respond with new evidence-based training. This bill would also require POST to consult with subject-matter experts to ensure that they are meeting the needs

⁴ *Id.* at p. 6.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Id.* at p. 10. (finding 70% support for incorporating more academic research into training and 80% support for improving the monitoring of training outcomes, among peace officers.)

⁷ *POST Hate Crimes Model Policy* (2025) Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training <https://post.ca.gov/Portals/0/post_docs/publications/Hate_Crimes.pdf> [as of Apr. 1, 2026].

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

of California's diverse communities. Hate crime is on the rise, and existing training guidelines may not adequately address the evolving problem of hate crime.

“This bill will help strengthen hate crime prevention and response tactics, which will strengthen community trust in law enforcement professionals. This is particularly important at a time when many Californians feel afraid of law enforcement. Peace officers in sensitive areas like school sites should have the most up-to-date training so they can identify and prevent hate crime in their communities.

- 4) **Argument in Opposition:** None submitted.
- 5) **Related Legislation:** AB 1535 (Davies) would provide that, in the case of any felony conviction, the fact that the defendant's conduct was motivated, in whole or in part, by the victim's actual or perceived political affiliation may be considered as a circumstance in aggravation in sentence. AB 1535 is pending a hearing in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- 6) **Prior Legislation:**
 - a) AB 822 (Elhawary), Chapter 714, Statutes of 2025, extended the sunset of the Commission on the State of Hate to January 1, 2031, and extended the final Annual State Hate Commission Report due date to July 1, 2030.
 - b) AB 2621 (Gabriel), Chapter 532, Statutes of 2024, required POST to develop guidelines and a course of instruction and training for law enforcement officers who are employed as peace officers addressing hate crimes.
 - c) AB 390 (Haney), of the 2023-2024 Legislative Session, would have required POST to partner with academic researchers to conduct an assessment of existing officer training requirements and determining how well the existing officer training requirements are working for officers in the field. AB 390 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
 - d) AB 449 (Ting), Chapter 524, Statutes of 2023, required POST to update its model hate crimes policy framework.
 - e) AB 1158 (Ting), of the 2023-2024 Legislative Session, would have required when training was available and how frequently the training was offered as part of the annual report to the Legislature on the overall effectiveness of any additional funding appropriated by the Legislature in improving peace officer training. AB 1158 was held in the Assembly Public Safety Committee.
 - f) AB 2429 (Quirk), of the 2021-2022 Legislative Session, was substantially similar to AB 390. AB 2429 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
 - g) AB 1947 (Ting), of the 2021-2022 Legislative Session, would have required each local law enforcement agency to adopt a hate crimes policy with specific parameters and requires POST to develop a model hate crimes policy. AB 1947 was held on the Senate inactive file.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California School Employees Association
The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration
2 Private Individuals

Opposition

None submitted.

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