

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

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

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to conduct a comprehensive review of existing hate crimes training programs for law enforcement officers and adopt evidence-based training requirements to address identified gaps. The review must evaluate 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.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Approximately \$5 million (General Fund) in one-time costs for POST to conduct the comprehensive review mandated by the bill. According to POST, the review would require evaluating the effectiveness of law enforcement response to hate crimes across approximately 600 agencies and 90,000 peace officers statewide. POST does not currently have the capacity to evaluate the effectiveness of law enforcement response or training outcomes and would need to contract with a third party to conduct the evaluation. POST requests three years to expend these funds and notes that the bill's current timeline does not provide sufficient time to complete a review of this scope.
- 2) Approximately \$2 million annually (General Fund) in ongoing costs for at least three years (\$6 million total) for POST to adopt and implement evidence-based training requirements to address gaps identified in the review. POST raises significant implementation concerns. POST does not collect hate crime data — that is a Department of Justice function — and would require DOJ cooperation to access the data necessary to evaluate disparities in hate crime data collection and law enforcement response. POST notes it has no existing mechanism to evaluate the effectiveness of training or law enforcement response to hate crimes, as distinguished from evaluating training curriculum and instruction.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author, law enforcement must receive evidence-based training to prevent hate crimes, and existing training guidelines may not adequately address the evolving nature of hate crimes. This bill requires POST to evaluate existing programs and develop updated, evidence-based approaches to improve prevention, identification, and investigation of hate crimes.
- 2) **Background.** POST provides hate crimes training to law enforcement officers and has developed a Hate Crimes Model Policy. AB 2621 (Gabriel), Chapter 532, Statutes of 2024,

required POST to develop guidelines and training for officers addressing hate crimes. This bill goes further by requiring POST to evaluate the effectiveness of existing training and law enforcement response — functions POST does not currently perform. A 2021 Little Hoover Commission report on law enforcement training recommended incorporating more academic research into training programs and assessing how training impacts on-the-job conduct, but noted the Legislature has consistently set training topics and hours without assessing training outcomes. POST raises significant concerns about the bill's feasibility, as discussed above. POST additionally reports that the bill's current timeline is unworkable and has requested that the review start date be pushed to January 1, 2028, with completion by January 1, 2030.

Prior legislation. AB 822 (Elhawary), Chapter 714, Statutes of 2025, extended the sunset of the Commission on the State of Hate to January 1, 2031.

AB 2621 (Gabriel), Chapter 532, Statutes of 2024, required POST to develop hate crimes training guidelines and a course of instruction for law enforcement officers.

AB 449 (Ting), Chapter 524, Statutes of 2023, required POST to update its model hate crimes policy framework.

AB 390 (Haney) of the 2023-24 session would have required POST to partner with academic researchers to assess existing training requirements. AB 390 was held on this committee's suspense file.

Analysis Prepared by: Shiran Zohar / APPR. / (916) 319-2081