

## **HB 426**

**To:** Grace Kim

**From:** Alex Awad and Valentina Drake

**Date:** October 1, 2020

**Re:** 426: Hate Bill

**Sponsors:** Efration, Chuck 104th, Smyre, Calvin 135th, Bennett, Karen 94th, Silcox, Deborah 52nd, Drenner, Karla 85th, Stephens, Ron 164th, Cowsert, Bill 46th

**Status:** Effective Date July 1st, 2020

**Recommended Action:** Yea

**Executive Summary:** This bill repeals Code Section 17-10-17 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, which involves sentencing defendants guilty of crimes involving bias or prejudice, circumstance, and parole. It provides guidelines for “Bias Crime Reports” to be used when law enforcement comes into contact with an offense related to perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender, mental disability, or physical disability.

**Analysis:** This bill would provide law enforcement officers with the tools to recognize hate crimes. It would ensure that those crimes are reported correctly and dealt with in an effective manner. This bill also recognizes the need for a better understanding of what a hate crime is and how to increase knowledge about this subject. It is altering the previous code 17-10-17 that was in conflict with this Act.