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Legislative Document

No. 491

S.P. 198

In Senate, February 19, 2021

An Act To Create the Crime of Hate Crime False Public Alarm or Report

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 17, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.

Cosponsored by Senators: BAILEY of York, MAXMIN of Lincoln, Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, GEIGER of Rockland, MORALES of South Portland, O'NEIL of Saco, RECKITT of South Portland, TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §509-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§509-A. Hate crime false public alarm or report**

4 **1. A person is guilty of hate crime false public alarm or report if:**

5 A. The person, motivated by or because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion,
6 religious practice, disability or origin of any person, gives or causes to be given
7 information that the person knows or should reasonably know to be false concerning
8 an emergency to any emergency responder, government agency or public utility
9 involving danger to life or property with the intent of inducing the responder, agency
10 or utility to respond; or

11 B. The person, motivated by or because of the actual or perceived race, color, religion,
12 religious practice, disability or national origin of any person, gives or causes to be given
13 false information that the person knows or should reasonably know to be false to a law
14 enforcement officer with the intent of inducing the belief in the law enforcement officer
15 in the law enforcement officer that a crime has been committed.

16 **2. Hate crime false public alarm or report is a Class C crime.**

17 **SUMMARY**

18 This bill creates the Class C crime of hate crime false public alarm or report in which
19 a person gives or causes to be given information the person, motivated by or because of the
20 actual or perceived race, color, religion, religious practice, disability or origin of any
21 person, knows or should reasonably know is false to an emergency responder, government
22 agency or utility with the intent of inducing the responder, agency or utility to respond or
23 to a law enforcement officer with the intent to cause the belief in the law enforcement
24 officer that a crime has been committed.