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**HATE CRIMES AMENDMENTS**

2001 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Sponsor: Pete Suazo**

**This act modifies the Criminal Code to revise the procedures and criminal penalties for commission of a crime motivated by actual bias or prejudice.**

This act affects sections of Utah Code Annotated 1953 as follows:

REPEALS AND REENACTS:

**76-3-203.3**, as enacted by Chapter 102, Laws of Utah 1992

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **76-3-203.3** is repealed and reenacted to read:

**76-3-203.3. Penalty for crimes motivated by bias or prejudice.**

(1) A person who, in committing any offense, selects the victim primarily because of bias or prejudice against a group is subject to an enhanced penalty as provided under Subsection (3).

(2) (a) The prosecuting attorney, or grand jury if an indictment is returned, shall cause to be subscribed upon the information or indictment notice that the defendant is subject to the enhanced penalties provided under Subsection (3).

(b) The notice under Subsection (2)(a) shall be in a clause separate from and in addition to the primary offense charged.

(3) If the trier of fact finds beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, in committing an offense, selected the victim primarily because of bias or prejudice against a group, the enhanced penalty for a:

(a) class B misdemeanor is a class A misdemeanor;

(b) class A misdemeanor is a third degree felony;

(c) third degree felony is a second degree felony;

(d) second degree felony is a first degree felony; or

(e) first degree felony remains the penalty for a first degree felony, except:

28           (i) imposition or execution of the sentence may not be suspended unless the court finds  
29 the interests of justice would be best served and states the specific circumstances justifying the  
30 disposition on the record; and

31           (ii) the Board of Pardons and Parole shall consider the finding by the trier of fact that the  
32 convicted person selected the victim primarily because of bias or prejudice against a group as an  
33 aggravating factor in determining the length of incarceration.

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**Legislative Review Note**

**as of 8-25-00 8:46 AM**

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**