

1 Introduced by Committee on Judiciary

2 Date:

3 Subject: Crimes; hate crimes

4 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to amend the
5 hate-motivated crimes statute to eliminate the element that the conduct be
6 “maliciously” motivated.

7 An act relating to hate-motivated crimes and misconduct

8 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

9 Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 1455 is amended to read:

10 § 1455. HATE-MOTIVATED CRIMES

11 A person who commits, causes to be committed, or attempts to commit any
12 crime and whose conduct is ~~maliciously~~ motivated by the victim’s actual or
13 perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, ancestry, age, service in the
14 U.S. Armed Forces, disability as defined by 21 V.S.A. § 495d(5), sexual
15 orientation, or gender identity shall be subject to the following penalties:

16 * * *

17 Sec. 2. 13 V.S.A. § 1456 is amended to read:

18 § 1456. BURNING OF CROSS OR OTHER RELIGIOUS SYMBOL

19 Any person who intentionally ~~and maliciously~~ sets fire to, or burns, causes
20 to be burned, or aids or procures the burning of a cross or a religious symbol,

1 with the intention of terrorizing or harassing a particular person or persons,
2 shall be subject to a term of imprisonment of not more than two years or a fine
3 of not more than \$5,000.00, or both.

4 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

5 This act shall take effect on passage.