

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 111](#)

TITLE: Antisemitism Task Force

SPONSOR(S): Gottlieb

COMPANION BILL: None

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: [SB 1072](#) (Calatayud)

Committee References

[Government Operations](#)

15 Y, 0 N

[State Affairs](#)



SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill establishes the Antisemitism Task Force (task force) within the Department of Legal Affairs for the purpose of combating antisemitism. The task force, which is composed of 18 members serving two-year terms, must meet at least quarterly to, among other requirements, conduct a review of the prevalence of antisemitism within the state. The task force must submit an annual report with policy recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and other legislative officials. The bill provides that the task force automatically repeals on October 2, 2029, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on state government.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill creates the Antisemitism [Task Force](#) (task force) as a part of the Office of Civil Rights within the Department of Legal Affairs. The task force is established to identify and combat [antisemitism](#) within the state. Under the bill, the Task Force must:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of the prevalence of antisemitism within the state.
- Foster opportunities for state and local governments to engage with the local Jewish community.
- Provide state and local officials with recommendations for combatting antisemitism.
- Provide guidance to law enforcement agencies' training programs related to the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes.
- Assess existing state programs relating to education in digital media literacy.
- Identify efforts to combat antisemitism in other states and jurisdictions.
- Evaluate Florida's hate crime statutes and consider necessary amendments.
- Recommend strategies, programs, and legislation to combat antisemitism. (Section [1](#))

The task force must submit an annual report by January 31 of each year with policy recommendations to the Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, minority leaders of both the Senate and House of Representatives, the chair of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate, and the chair of the Security and Threat Assessment Committee of the House of Representatives. The first report is required to examine antisemitism in schools and universities. (Section [1](#))

The task force is composed of the following 18 members, serving two-year terms:

- Six members appointed by the presiding officers of the Legislature: Three by the President of the Senate and three by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Of their allotted appointees, one each must be a representative of a Jewish community organization and one must have expertise in combating

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antisemitism. Both the President and Speaker must each designate one of their appointees to serve as co-chair of the Task Force.

- Two members appointed by the Minority Leaders of both chambers: one by the Senate Minority Leader and one by the House Minority Leader.
- Two members appointed by the Governor, one of whom must have expertise in civil rights law.
- The Attorney General or their designee.
- The Commissioner of Education or their designee.
- The chair of the Florida Commission on Human Relations or their designee.
- A representative from the Florida Association of Counties.
- A representative from the Florida League of Cities.
- A representative from the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association.
- A representative from the Florida Police Chiefs Association.
- A representative from the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. (Section [1](#))

The members serve without compensation; however, members are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses. The task force must hold its first meeting by August 1, 2026, and convene at least quarterly. (Section [1](#))

The bill provides an automatic repeal date of October 2, 2029, unless reenacted by the Legislature. (Section [1](#))

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2026. (Section [2](#))

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Task Force

A task force is an advisory body appointed to study a specific problem and recommend a solution or policy alternative with respect to that problem.¹ When a task force is created through the enactment of a specific statute it can exist for no longer than three years and terminates upon the completion of its assignment.² A statutorily created advisory body may be created only when it is found to be necessary and beneficial to the furtherance of a public purpose.³ An advisory body is required to inform the Legislature and the public of the body's purposes, memberships, activities, and expenses.⁴ Moreover, unless expressly permitted in statute, Florida law prohibits advisory board member compensation. Members may receive per diem and reimbursement of travel expenses.⁵

Evidencing Prejudice While Committing an Offense

Current law reclassifies the penalty for any felony or misdemeanor to the next highest degree if the commission of the offense evidences prejudice based on the race, color, ancestry, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, homeless status, or advanced age of the victim, as follows:

- A misdemeanor of the second-degree is reclassified to a misdemeanor of the first-degree.
- A misdemeanor of the first-degree is reclassified to a felony of the third-degree.
- A felony of the third-degree is reclassified to a felony of the second-degree.
- A felony of the second-degree is reclassified to a felony of the first-degree.
- A felony of the first-degree is reclassified to a life felony.⁶

¹ [S. 20.03\(5\), F.S.](#)

² *Id.*

³ [S. 20.052\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁴ [S. 20.052\(3\), F.S.](#)

⁵ [S. 20.052\(4\)\(d\), F.S.](#)

⁶ [S. 775.085, F.S.](#)

The offender must have perceived, known, or have had reasonable grounds to perceive or know that the victim was within one of the classes delineated above for the penalty reclassification to apply.⁷

Reporting of Hate Crimes

All law enforcement agencies in Florida are required to submit a monthly report to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) concerning criminal acts that evidence prejudice based on race, religion, ethnicity, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, or national origin.⁸ FDLE is required to compile and disseminate such information upon request to any local law enforcement agency, unit of local government, or state agency.⁹ Additionally, the Florida Attorney General (AG) must publish an annual summary of the compiled data.¹⁰

The AG's 2023 summary on hate crimes detailed a 35.8 percent overall increase in hate crimes in Florida between 2022 and 2023 and noted that in 2023, 31.5 percent of all reported hate crimes were motivated by religion, up from 23.6 percent in 2022.¹¹ Moreover, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) reported that between 2022 and 2023 antisemitic incidents in Florida increased by 31 percent, rising from 269 incidents in 2022 to 353 in 2024.¹² On a national level, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) data shows the number of reported hate crimes in the United States are the highest since collection of data began in 1991, and more than doubled between 2014 and 2022. On a national level, the FBI documented 12,310 reported hate crimes in 2024, 17 percent of which were antisemitic incidents.¹³ According to the ADL, in 2024, Florida was in the top ten states where the highest number of antisemitic incidents occurred.¹⁴

Definitions of Antisemitism in Florida Statute

In 2024, the Legislature passed HB 187, which defined antisemitism in Chapter 1 of the Florida Statutes, the area of law containing definitions applicable to all sections of the Florida Statutes.¹⁵ The definition of antisemitism specifies that the term includes:

A certain perception of the Jewish people which may be expressed as hatred toward such individuals. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish and non-Jewish individuals and their property and toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.¹⁶

Additionally, the definition provides the following contemporary examples of antisemitism:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jewish individuals.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jewish individuals as such or the power of Jewish people as a collective, such as the myth of a worldwide Jewish conspiracy or of Jewish individuals controlling the media, economy, government, or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jewish people as a collective of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group or for acts committed by non-Jewish individuals.
- Denying the fact, scope, and mechanisms, such as gas chambers, or the intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of Nazi Germany and its supporters and accomplices during the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish people as a collective, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jewish individuals worldwide, than to the interests of their respective nations.

⁷ [S. 775.085\(1\)\(a\) and \(3\), F.S.](#)

⁸ [S. 877.19, F.S.](#)

⁹ [S. 877.19, F.S.](#)

¹⁰ [S. 877.19\(2\) and \(4\), F.S.](#)

¹¹ Florida Attorney General, [Hate Crimes in Florida January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023](#) (last visited Nov. 19, 2025).

¹² Center for Extremism, [Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2022](#) (last visited Nov. 19, 2025); Center for Extremism, [Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2024](#) (last visited Nov. 19, 2025).

¹³ Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Hate Crime in the United States Incident Analysis](#) (last visited Nov. 19, 2025).

¹⁴ Center for Extremism, [Audit of Antisemitic Incidents 2024](#) (last visited Nov. 19, 2025).

¹⁵ [Ch. 2024-262, L.O.F.](#)

¹⁶ [S. 1.015, F.S.](#); see also [S. 1000.05\(8\), F.S.](#)

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, such as claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- Applying double standards by requiring of the Jewish State of Israel a standard of behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism, such as blood libel, to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jewish individuals collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel.¹⁷

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Government Operations	15 Y, 0 N	1/13/2026	Toliver	Lines
Subcommittee				
State Affairs Committee				

¹⁷ [S. 1.015, F.S.](#)