



Hate crime laws at a glance

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Some lawmakers in Michigan and Washington hope the story of Andrew Anthos, who was beaten to death last month in Detroit after his attacker repeatedly asked him if he was gay, will spur updates to federal and state hate crime laws to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Similar changes have been tried for at least a decade.

WHERE IT STANDS NOW: Michigan and U.S. laws cover bias attacks based on race, ethnicity, national origin and religion. **Of 32 states with laws that cover sexual orientation, 10 include gender identity and expression, according to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.**

WHAT THE LEGISLATION WOULD DO: Besides expanding the definition of a hate crime, the federal Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act would allow the federal government to help local law enforcement investigate hate crimes. A bill was introduced in the U.S. House this week.

The state amendment, expected to be introduced in about a week, would change "ethnic" intimidation to "felonious intimidation" and make prison terms for those convicted of the charge be served before terms imposed for other convictions stemming from the same incident.