

**NEW JERSEY COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**  
**RESOLUTION OF DECEMBER 11, 2007**  
**SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF THE**  
**ASSEMBLY, NO. 4591/SENATE, NO. 2975**  
*Bills Revising Laws Concerning Hate Crimes and Bullying*

**WHEREAS**, by an Act of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights was created; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Civil Rights is charged under the law with consulting with and advising the Attorney General with respect to the work of the Division on Civil Rights, surveying and studying the operations of the Division, and reporting to the Governor and the Legislature with respect to such matters relating to the work of the Division and at such times as it may deem in the public interest; and

**WHEREAS**, the bills amend bias crime law to specifically provide protection based on “gender identity or expression” and “national origin” that are within the protected classes in the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination making it more parallel with the existing civil rights protection; and

**WHEREAS**, the bills require local and county police to keep and report information on bias crimes to the Attorney General or the Division of State Police; and

**WHEREAS**, the bills require the Police Training Commission to require all new police officers to complete two hours of training in identifying, responding to and reporting bias crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, the bills also amend the N.J.S.A.183 A:37-15 to require that each school district’s bullying policy be posted on their website and distributed to parents and guardians annually; and

**WHEREAS**, the bills establish the Commission on Bullying in Schools consisting of 13 members: including the Director of the Division on Civil Rights and the Commissioner of the Department of Education and members of the public as appointed by the Governor and Legislative bodies; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** on this date, December 11, 2007 by the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights that the Members of the Commission hereby support passage of the of Assembly Bill, No. 4591 and Senate Bill, No. 2975; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Commission believes the additional protection is most necessary to protect the rights of New Jerseyans based on protections “gender identity or expression” and “national origin” for all citizens and wishes to reinforce the principle that New Jersey is an environment where anyone can live and thrive free of harassment; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Division shall ensure that a copy of this Resolution is transmitted to the Legislative leadership, Attorney General, and the Governor, and shall have a copy posted on the website of the Division under the Commission’s link.