

## Windy City Times

### **Hate-Crimes Bill Passes State House**

*by Andrew Davis*

2006-02-15

---

Hate-crime legislation sponsored by state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago, which allows victims to file for financial compensation, unanimously passed through the Illinois House.

House Bill 4134 amends the Crime Victims Compensation Act to allow victims of hate crimes to file for economic assistance from the state. This act provides that victims of crimes can be provided money from the state's general revenue fund to aid them with recovery.

“Victims of hate crimes are put under terrible emotional and psychological strain,” Feigenholtz said in a statement issued from the House. “But it’s important to remember the financial problems that can follow the crime as well.”

Hate crimes in Illinois are defined by violent action committed on another because of his or her race, gender, ethnicity or sexual orientation. A hate crime can also include destruction or defacement of property, such as private residences or places of worship.

The measure now moves to the Illinois Senate for further consideration.