

policing includes individuals targeted for noncriminal characteristics such as race, ethnicity, color, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, political affiliation, disability, socioeconomic status, or any combination of the above.

Bias-based policing is most often discussed in the context of a police-initiated traffic stop. Bias-based policing may occur in other contexts as well, however, such as customs searches, police-initiated pedestrian stops, DEA activities, and national parks enforcement. Within this expanded context, bias-based policing can be thought of as the inappropriate use of public authority when interacting with minorities.¹

What would this bill study?

- ◆ All available data regarding motor vehicle stops and arrests by law enforcement agencies in New Mexico
- ◆ Complaints filed against law enforcement agencies
- ◆ Any other available data necessary to attain a full understanding of incidents and practices of bias-based policing in New Mexico

What would be the results and policy implications of such a bill?

Following a thorough review of the study results, the New Mexico Sentencing Commission would make recommendations for the development and implementation of plans, policies, and strategies to eliminate bias-based policing in New Mexico.

Recommendations may include:

- ◆ Policies for law enforcement agencies that are designed to protect individuals' civil rights related to police traffic enforcement, including training of law enforcement officers
- ◆ Strategies to improve the data available to identify bias-based policing practices and incidents
- ◆ Educational efforts for communities of color promoting understanding of civil rights relating to police traffic enforcement
- ◆ Data collection requirements for traffic stops

The results and recommendations should be presented with opportunities for public comment to the Governor, Department of Public Safety, the Transportation Department, Department of Homeland Security, and the appropriate interim legislative committee.

Who Supports this Bill?

Legislation addressing bias-based policing is part of a national, multicultural, and multi-organizational movement.

Local organizations supporting New Mexico's bias-based policing study bill include:

New Mexico NAACP, and the Family Justice Campaign which includes the Santa Fe Branch of the NAACP, New Mexico Coalition for Justice, New Mexico Conference of Churches, New Mexicans for a Fair Wage, New Mexico Coalition to Repeal the Death Penalty, Drug Policy Alliance New Mexico, New Mexico Department of Peace Initiative, New Mexico Voter Services Coalition, Somos Un Pueblo Unido, and New Mexico Voices for Children.

¹ See Deborah Ramirez, Jack McDevitt & Amy Farrel, A Resource Guide on Racial Profiling Data Collection Systems: Promising Practices and Lessons Learned 3 (2000).