
DIGEST

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HB 60 Original

2026 Regular Session

Glorioso

Abstract: Adds disruption, interruption, or interference with any religious gathering or worship service at a church or other place of worship as conduct that constitutes disturbing the peace.

Present law provides for the crime of disturbing the peace and provides for elements and penalties for this offense.

Proposed law amends present law to add, as conduct that constitutes disturbing the peace, intentionally and without lawful authority entering or remaining in a church or other place of worship during a religious gathering or worship service with the intent to create a disturbance, interrupt, or interfere with the worship service and causing a substantial disturbance of the service by any of the following:

- (1) Violent, tumultuous, or threatening behavior directed at any person lawfully attending, leading, or participating in the service.
- (2) Unreasonably loud or abusive language or noise such that the service is materially disrupted, including causing the cessation of the service, a significant delay, or the dispersal of participants.
- (3) Interference with the conduct of the service by physical obstruction, intimidation, or threat of force toward clergy, worship leaders, or attendees.

Proposed law provides the meaning of "substantial" for the purposes of proposed law.

Proposed law provides that nothing in proposed law shall be construed to prohibit activity protected by the U.S. Constitution or the Constitution of La., including peaceful expressive activity conducted in a lawful manner that does not substantially disturb, interrupt, or interfere with a religious gathering or worship service.

Proposed law retains present law penalties generally and adds the following penalties for a violation of proposed law:

- (1) Imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than five years, a fine of not more than \$5,000, or both. Proposed law also applies this penalty to an offender who conspires with another person to violate proposed law.

- (2) If the offender uses a dangerous weapon or inflicts serious bodily injury, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than 10 years, a fine of not more than \$10,000, or both.
- (3) If the offender acts in concert with another person, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than seven years, a fine of not more than \$7,500, or both.

Proposed law defines the terms "act in concert", "church or other place of worship", and "religious gathering or worship service".

(Amends R.S. 14:103(C); Adds R.S. 14:103(A)(9) and (B)(3))