

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 35

BY SENATOR WHEAT

CRIME/PUNISHMENT. Creates the crime of disturbing the peace at a place of religious worship. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:103.4, relative to offenses affecting the general peace and order; to create

3 the crime of disturbing the peace at a place of religious worship; to prohibit the

4 petitioning, picketing, protesting, or assembling with other persons in or near a place

5 of religious worship; to provide for penalties; to provide for a definition; and to

6 provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 14:103.4 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 **§103.4. Disturbing the peace; place of religious worship**

10 **A. No person shall petition, picket, demonstrate, protest, or assemble**

11 **with other persons in, or within fifty feet of, a place of worship in a manner**

12 **which intentionally and willfully disrupts, threatens to disrupt, intimidates,**

13 **harasses, or interferes with any person lawfully exercising or seeking to exercise**

14 **his right of religious freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment of the**

15 **Constitution of the United States of America or Article I, Section 8 of the**

16 **Constitution of Louisiana.**

17 **B. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined five**

1 **hundred dollars and imprisoned for fifteen days without benefit of probation**
 2 **or suspension of sentence. Each day on which a violation occurs shall constitute**
 3 **a separate offense.**

4 **C. For purposes of this Section, "place of worship" means a church,**
 5 **synagogue, mosque, temple, shrine, or other building used regularly to conduct**
 6 **religious worship, education, or services.**

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 35 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Wheat

Proposed law creates the crime of disturbing the peace in or near a place of religious worship.

Proposed law further provides that no person can petition, picket, demonstrate, protest, or assemble with other persons in, or within 50 feet of, a place of worship in a manner which intentionally and willfully disrupts, threatens to disrupt, intimidates, harasses, or interferes with any person lawfully exercising or seeking to exercise his right of religious freedom guaranteed by U.S. Const. Amend. I or La. Const. Art. I, Sec 8.

Proposed law provides that an offender will be fined \$500 and sentenced to 15 days in jail, without benefit of probation or suspension of sentence.

Proposed law defines "place of worship" as a church, synagogue, mosque, temple, shrine, or other building used regularly to conduct religious worship, education, or services.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 14:103.4)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Judiciary C to the original bill

1. Require that the disruption or interference with religious freedom be committed willfully and intentionally.