

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 68

BY REPRESENTATIVES SCHLEGEL, ADAMS, BOYER, CHENEVERT, GLORIOSO,
HORTON, MOORE, AND VILLIO

CRIME: Provides relative to conduct that constitutes disturbing the peace

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:103(A)(9) and (B)(3), relative to offenses affecting the general peace and
3 order; to provide for conduct that constitutes disturbing the peace; to provide for
4 penalties; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 14:103(A)(9) and (B)(3) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §103. Disturbing the peace

8 A. Disturbing the peace is the doing of any of the following in such manner
9 as would foreseeably disturb or alarm the public:

10 * * *

11 (9) Interruption of any worship service or religious ceremony in a church,
12 synagogue, mosque, or other similar place of worship that is eligible for qualification
13 as a tax-exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. 501 by any of the following:

14 (a) Violent, tumultuous, or threatening behavior directed at any person
15 lawfully attending, leading, or participating in the service.

16 (b) Unreasonably loud or abusive language or noise such that the service is
17 materially disrupted.

18 (c) Interference with the conduct of the service by physical obstruction,
19 intimidation, or threat of force toward clergy, worship leaders, or attendees.

1 B.

2 * * *

3 (3)(a) Except as provided in Subparagraph (b), (c), or (d) of this Paragraph,
4 whoever commits the crime of disturbing the peace as provided in Paragraph (A)(9)
5 of this Section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for
6 not more than six months, or both. Thirty days of the sentence imposed shall be
7 served without benefit of probation or suspension of sentence.

8 (b) Whoever commits the crime of simple battery during the commission of
9 disturbing the peace as provided in Paragraph (A)(9) of this Section shall be
10 imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than two years.

11 (c) Whoever commits the crime of simple criminal damage to property
12 during the commission of disturbing the peace as provided in Paragraph (A)(9) of
13 this Section shall be imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than two
14 years.

15 (d) Whoever commits the crime of disturbing the peace as provided in
16 Paragraph (A)(9) of this Section while armed with a dangerous weapon shall be
17 imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than five years.

18 * * *

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, 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)]

HB 68 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Schlegel

Abstract: Adds interruption of any worship service or religious ceremony in a church synagogue, mosque, or other similar 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 generally retains present law and adds the interruption of any worship service or religious ceremony in a church, synagogue, mosque, or other similar place of worship by means of certain conduct as a circumstance that constitutes disturbing the peace.

Proposed law provides that whoever commits the crime of disturbing the peace as provided in proposed law shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. Further provides that 30 days of the sentence imposed shall be served without benefit of probation or suspension of sentence.

Proposed law provides additional penalties for a violation of proposed law as follows:

- (1) If the offender commits a simple battery, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than two years.
- (2) If the offender commits simple criminal damage to property, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than two years.
- (3) If the offender is armed with a dangerous weapon, imprisonment with or without hard labor for not more than five years.

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

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Provide for locations where interruption of any worship service or religious ceremony constitutes disturbing the peace under proposed law.
3. Clarify that the interruption has to occur in, rather than at, the locations provided in proposed law in order to constitute a violation of disturbing the peace.
4. Clarify the conduct that constitutes disturbing the peace under proposed law.
5. Provide additional penalties for a violation of proposed law when the offender commits simple battery, commits simple criminal damage to property, or is armed with a dangerous weapon.
6. Change the minimum amount of imprisonment to be served without benefit of probation or suspension of sentence from 15 days to 30 days.