
DIGEST

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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.