

HOUSE SUMMARY OF SENATE AMENDMENTS

HB 68

2026 Regular Session

Schlegel

CRIME: Provides relative to conduct that constitutes disturbing the peace

Synopsis of Senate Amendments

1. Changes the element of proposed law with respect to disturbing the peace from interruption of any worship service or religious ceremony in a church, synagogue, mosque, or other similar place of worship that is eligible for qualification as a tax-exempt organization to interruption of any worship service or religious ceremony at a church or other place of worship.
2. Defines "church or other place of worship" and "religious organization".
3. Makes technical changes.

Digest of Bill as Finally Passed by Senate

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 at a church or other 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.

Present law provides for definitions.

Proposed law retains present law and defines the terms "church or other place of worship" and "religious organization".

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