

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 662

Representatives Fischer, Newman

Cosponsors: Representatives Dean, Dovilla, Barhorst, Ritter, Santucci, Click, Salvo, Swearingen, King, Johnson, Lear, Creech, Mathews, T., Williams, Gross, Klopfenstein, Hall, T., Hiner, John, Robb Blasdel, Workman

To amend section 2917.12 of the Revised Code to	1
increase the penalty for disturbing a lawful	2
meeting under certain circumstances.	3

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 2917.12 of the Revised Code be	4
amended to read as follows:	5

Sec. 2917.12. (A) No person, with purpose to prevent or	6
disrupt a lawful meeting, procession, or gathering, shall do	7
either of the following:	8

(1) Do any act which obstructs or interferes with the due	9
conduct of such meeting, procession, or gathering;	10

(2) Make any utterance, gesture, or display which outrages	11
the sensibilities of the group.	12

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of disturbing	13
a lawful meeting. Except as otherwise provided in this division,	14
disturbing a lawful meeting is a misdemeanor of the fourth	15
degree. Disturbing a lawful meeting is a misdemeanor <u>felony</u> of	16
the first <u>first</u> fifth degree if either of the following applies:	17

(1) The violation is committed with the intent to disturb 18
or disquiet any assemblage of people met for religious worship 19
at a tax-exempt place of worship, regardless of whether the 20
conduct is within the place at which the assemblage is held or 21
is on the property on which that place is located and disturbs 22
the order and solemnity of the assemblage. 23

(2) The violation is committed with the intent to prevent, 24
disrupt, or interfere with a virtual meeting or gathering of 25
people for religious worship, through use of a computer, 26
computer system, telecommunications device, or other electronic 27
device or system, or in any other manner. 28

(C) As used in this section: 29

(1) "Computer," "computer system," and "telecommunications 30
device" have the same meanings as in section 2913.01 of the 31
Revised Code. 32

(2) "Virtual meeting or gathering" means a meeting or 33
gathering by interactive video conference or teleconference, or 34
by a combination thereof. 35

Section 2. That existing section 2917.12 of the Revised 36
Code is hereby repealed. 37