

As Reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

H. B. No. 504

Representatives Carfagna, Johnson

Cosponsors: Representatives Weinstein, Click, Hillyer, Hall, White, Bird, Seitz, Ginter, Stewart, John, Kick, Zeltwanger, Stoltzfus, McClain, Abrams, Plummer, Fowler Arthur, Miller, A., Baldrige, Blackshear, Boyd, Carruthers, Cross, Crossman, Cutrona, Denson, Fraizer, Galonski, Ghanbari, Grendell, Gross, Hicks-Hudson, Holmes, Hoops, Jarrells, Jones, Jordan, Koehler, Lampton, Lanese, LaRe, Lepore-Hagan, Lightbody, Loychik, Manning, Miller, J., Miller, K., O'Brien, Oelslager, Patton, Ray, Richardson, Riedel, Roemer, Schmidt, Sheehy, Smith, M., Stein, Stephens, Stevens, Swearingen, Troy, Upchurch, West, Wiggam, Wilkin, Young, T., Speaker Cupp

A BILL

To amend section 2917.12 of the Revised Code to
increase the penalty for "disturbing a lawful
meeting" when committed with the intent to
disturb or disquiet an assemblage for religious
worship or to prevent, disrupt, or interfere
with a virtual meeting or gathering for
religious worship.

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

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

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

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

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

(B) Whoever violates this section is guilty of disturbing
a lawful meeting. Except as otherwise provided in this
division, disturbing a lawful meeting is a misdemeanor of the
fourth degree. Disturbing a lawful meeting is a misdemeanor of
the first degree if either of the following applies:

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

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

(C) As used in this section:

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

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

Section 2. That existing section 2917.12 of the Revised

Code is hereby repealed.

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