

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE AMENDMENT

TO

2 ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 743

By: Gollihare, Alvord,
Thompson, Green, Paxton,
Stanley, and Hall of the
Senate

and

Lawson of the House

8 An Act relating to criminal disturbance; amending 21
O.S. 2021, Sections 915 and 916, which relate to
9 disturbance of religious meeting; specifying range of
punishment for certain misdemeanor offense;
10 establishing felony offense for certain convictions;
specifying range of punishment for certain felony
11 offense; modifying definitions; modifying elements of
certain offense; updating statutory language; and
12 declaring an emergency.

14 AUTHOR: Add the following House Coauthors: Pae, Schreiber,
and Manger

16 AUTHOR: Add the following Senate Coauthor: Haste

17 AMENDMENT NO. 1. Strike the title, enacting clause, and entire bill
and insert:

20 "An Act relating to criminal disturbance; declaring
legislative findings; amending 21 O.S. 2021, Sections
21 915 and 916, which relate to disturbance of religious
meeting; specifying range of punishment for certain
22 misdemeanor offense; establishing felony offense for
certain convictions; specifying range of punishment
23 for certain felony offense; modifying elements of
certain offenses; providing for noncodification; and
24 declaring an emergency.

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2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

3 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be
4 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

5 The Legislature finds that the right of the people to meet and
6 assemble for religious worship is imperative for the people of this
7 state; that the exercise of the right of a person to protest at
8 places of religious worship must be balanced against the right of
9 another person to meet and assemble for religious worship in an
10 unobstructed manner; and that preventing the willful obstruction of
11 access of a person to places of religious worship is a matter of
12 statewide concern. Therefore, the Legislature declares that it is a
13 compelling public interest of this state to protect the ability of
14 its people to meet and assemble for religious worship without
15 willful obstruction.

16 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2021, Section 915, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Section 915. Every person who willfully disturbs, interrupts,
19 or disquiets any assemblage of people met for religious worship, by
20 any of the acts ~~or things hereinafter~~ enumerated, is in Section 916
21 of this title shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor
22 punishable by a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00),
23 by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed one (1)
24 year, or by both such fine and imprisonment. A person who commits a

1 second or subsequent offense shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a
2 felony punishable by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars
3 (\$1,000.00), by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of
4 Corrections for a term not to exceed two (2) years, or by both such
5 fine and imprisonment.

6 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2021, Section 916, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 Section 916. The following are the acts deemed to constitute
9 disturbance of a religious meeting as prohibited by Section 915 of
10 this title:

11 1. Uttering any profane discourse, committing any rude or
12 indecent act, or making any unnecessary noise, either within the
13 place where such meeting is held, or so near it as to disturb the
14 order and solemnity of the meeting-;

15 2. ~~Exhibiting within one (1) mile, any shows or plays without a~~
16 ~~license by the proper authority.~~ Knowingly obstructing, detaining,
17 hindering, impeding, or blocking the entry of another person to or
18 exit from a place where such meeting is held;

19 3. ~~Engaging in, or aiding or promoting within the like~~
20 ~~distance, any racing of animals or gaming of any description.~~
21 Knowingly approaching another person within eight (8) feet of such
22 person, unless such other person consents, for the purpose of
23 passing a leaflet or handbill to, displaying a sign to, or engaging
24 in oral protest, education, or counseling with such other person in

1 the public way or sidewalk area within a radius of one hundred (100)
2 feet from any entrance door to a place where the meeting is held; or

3 4. Obstructing in any manner, without authority of law, within
4 ~~the like distance~~ one (1) mile, the free passage along any highway
5 to the place of ~~such~~ the meeting.

6 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
7 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
8 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
9 be in full force from and after its passage and approval."

10 Passed the House of Representatives the 6th day of May, 2025.

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13 _____
Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives

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15 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2025.

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17
18 _____
Presiding Officer of the Senate

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 743

By: Gollihare, Alvord,
Thompson, Green, Paxton,
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6
7 An Act relating to criminal disturbance; amending 21
8 O.S. 2021, Sections 915 and 916, which relate to
disturbance of religious meeting; specifying range of
punishment for certain misdemeanor offense;
9 establishing felony offense for certain convictions;
specifying range of punishment for certain felony
10 offense; modifying definitions; modifying elements of
certain offense; updating statutory language; and
11 declaring an emergency.

12
13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2021, Section 915, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 Section 915. Every person who willfully disturbs, interrupts,
17 or disquiets any assemblage of people met for religious worship, by
18 any of the acts ~~or things hereinafter~~ enumerated, ~~is~~ in Section 916
19 of this title shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor
20 punishable by a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00),
21 by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed one (1)
22 year, or by both such fine and imprisonment. A person who commits a
23 second or subsequent offense shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a
24 felony punishable by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars

1 (\$1,000.00), by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of
2 Corrections for a term not to exceed two (2) years, or by both such
3 fine and imprisonment.

4 SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2021, Section 916, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 916. The following are the acts deemed to constitute
7 disturbance of a religious meeting as prohibited by Section 915 of
8 this title:

9 1. Uttering any profane discourse, committing any rude or
10 indecent act, or making any unnecessary noise, either within the
11 place where such meeting is held, or so near it as to disturb the
12 order and solemnity of the meeting-;

13 2. Exhibiting or engaging in, within one (1) mile, any ~~shows or~~
14 ~~plays~~ protest, demonstration, show, or play without a license by the
15 proper authority-;

16 3. Engaging in, or aiding or promoting within the like
17 distance, any racing of animals or gaming of any description-; or

18 4. Obstructing in any manner, without authority of law, within
19 ~~the like distance~~ one (1) mile, the free passage along any highway
20 to the place of ~~such~~ the meeting.

21 SECTION 7. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
22 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
23 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
24 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

1 Passed the Senate the 27th day of March, 2025.

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3 _____
4 Presiding Officer of the Senate

5 Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
6 2025.

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8 _____
9 Presiding Officer of the House
10 of Representatives