

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR ENGROSSED
6 SENATE BILL NO. 743

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

7
8 and

Lawson, Pae, Schreiber, and
9 **Manger** of the House

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11
12 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

13 An Act relating to criminal disturbance; declaring
14 legislative findings; amending 21 O.S. 2021, Sections
15 915 and 916, which relate to disturbance of religious
16 meeting; specifying range of punishment for certain
17 misdemeanor offense; establishing felony offense for
18 certain convictions; specifying range of punishment
19 for certain felony offense; modifying elements of
20 certain offenses; providing for noncodification; and
21 declaring an emergency.

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

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

The Legislature finds that the right of the people to meet and
assemble for religious worship is imperative for the people of this

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

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

12 Section 915. Every person who willfully disturbs, interrupts,
13 or disquiets any assemblage of people met for religious worship, by
14 any of the acts ~~or things hereinafter~~ enumerated, is in Section 916
15 of this title shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor
16 punishable by a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00),
17 by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed one (1)
18 year, or by both such fine and imprisonment. A person who commits a
19 second or subsequent offense shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a
20 felony punishable by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars
21 (\$1,000.00), by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of
22 Corrections for a term not to exceed two (2) years, or by both such
23 fine and imprisonment.
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1 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2021, Section 916, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 Section 916. The following are the acts deemed to constitute
4 disturbance of a religious meeting as prohibited by Section 915 of
5 this title:

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

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

14 3. ~~Engaging in, or aiding or promoting within the like~~
15 ~~distance, any racing of animals or gaming of any description.~~
16 Knowingly approaching another person within eight (8) feet of such
17 person, unless such other person consents, for the purpose of
18 passing a leaflet or handbill to, displaying a sign to, or engaging
19 in oral protest, education, or counseling with such other person in
20 the public way or sidewalk area within a radius of one hundred (100)
21 feet from any entrance door to a place where the meeting is held; or

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

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

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6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY
7 OVERSIGHT, dated 04/17/2025 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.

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