

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB743
Version:	CS
Request Number:	13573
Author:	Rep. Lawson
Date:	4/23/2025
Impact:	DOC: Minimal
	AOC: Budget neutral

Research Analysis

The Committee substitute to SB 743 modifies the punishment for disturbing a religious meeting by providing a fine of not more than \$500, imprisonment for up to 1 year in the county jail or both fine and imprisonment. A second or subsequent offense is a felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000, imprisonment for up to 2 years or both fine and imprisonment.

The measure clarifies acts which constitute disturbance of a religious meeting to include knowingly obstructing, detaining, hindering, impeding, or blocking the entry of another person to or exit from a place where such meeting is held; and knowingly approaching another person within 8 feet of such person, unless the other person consents, for the purpose of passing a leaflet or handbill to, displaying a sign to, or engaging in oral protest, education, or counseling with to the other person in the public way or sidewalk area within a radius of 100 feet from any entrance door to a place where the meeting is held.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

Fiscal Analysis

The CS to SB743 modifies provisions and sets penalties related to disturbing a religious meeting. Depending on the offense, penalties may be a misdemeanor or felony with fines ranging from \$0 to \$1,000, imprisonment not to exceed 2 years, or both such fine and imprisonment. Any resulting change to the revenues collected by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) or change in the costs incurred by the Department of Corrections (DOC) are expected to be immaterial and/or absorbed by the agencies. Therefore, this measure in its current form is anticipated to be budget neutral.

Prepared By: Robert Flipping IV, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.