

HB 2117 -- Disturbing a Worship Service

Sponsor: Stevenson

This bill creates the crime of disturbing a worship service when a person knowingly disturbs, interrupts, or disquiets any assembly of people met for religious worship by using profane discourse, by rude or indecent behavior, or by making noise either within the place of worship or so near it as to disturb the order and solemnity of the worship service. Anyone disturbing a worship service will be guilty of a class C misdemeanor for a first offense, a class B misdemeanor for a second offense, and a class A misdemeanor for a third or subsequent offense. Any person harmed by the commission of the offense may commence a civil action for appropriate relief including temporary, preliminary, or permanent injunctive relief; compensatory and punitive damages; and the costs of the suit and reasonable attorney fees.