

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3525

AN ACT

To amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the Federal jurisdiction over offenses relating to damage to religious property.

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To amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the Federal jurisdiction over offenses relating to damage to religious property.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Church Arson Preven-
3 tion Act of 1996”.

4 **SEC. 2. DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS PROPERTY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 247 of title 18, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) so that subsection (b) reads as follows:

8 “(b) The circumstances referred to in subsection (a)
9 are that the offense is in or affects interstate or foreign
10 commerce.”;

11 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection
12 (c)” and inserting “subsection (d)”;

13 (3) in subsection (c), by inserting “or (c)” after
14 “subsection (a)”;

15 (4) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and
16 (e), as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively;

17 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) the follow-
18 ing:

19 “(c) Whoever intentionally defaces, damages, or de-
20 stroys any religious real property because of the race,
21 color, or ethnic characteristics of any individual associated
22 with that religious property, or attempts to do so, shall
23 be punished as provided in subsection (d).”; and

24 (6) in subsection (f) as so redesignated by this
25 section, by inserting “real” before “property” each
26 place it appears.

1 (b) COMPENSATION OF VICTIMS.—

2 (1) REQUIREMENT OF INCLUSION IN LIST OF
3 CRIMES ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION.—Section
4 1403(d)(3) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42
5 U.S.C. 10602(d)(3)) is amended by inserting
6 “crimes, whose victims suffer death or personal in-
7 jury, that are described in section 247 of title 18,
8 United States Code,” after “includes”.

9 (2) PRIORITY IN CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE.—
10 Section 1404(a)(2)(A) of the Victims of Crime Act
11 of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10603(a)(2)(A)) is amended by
12 inserting “victims who suffer death or personal in-
13 jury resulting from crimes described in section 247
14 of title 18, United States Code, and” before “victims
15 of”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 18, 1996.

Attest:

Clerk.