AN ACT

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

JUNE 20, 1996

Read twice and ordered to be placed on the calendar
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 1996

Received

JUNE 20, 1996

Read twice and ordered to be placed on the calendar

AN ACT

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,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996”.

SEC. 2. DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS PROPERTY.

(a) In General.—Section 247 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

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

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

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection (e)” and inserting “subsection (d)”;

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

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

(5) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(e) Whoever intentionally defaces, damages, or destroys any religious real property because of the race, color, or ethnic characteristics of any individual associated with that religious property, or attempts to do so, shall be punished as provided in subsection (d).”; and

(6) in subsection (f) as so redesignated by this section, by inserting “real” before “property” each place it appears.
(b) Compensation of Victims.—

(1) Requirement of inclusion in list of crimes eligible for compensation.—Section 1403(d)(3) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10602(d)(3)) is amended by inserting “crimes, whose victims suffer death or personal injury, that are described in section 247 of title 18, United States Code,” after “includes”.

(2) Priority in crime victim assistance.—Section 1404(a)(2)(A) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10603(a)(2)(A)) is amended by inserting “victims who suffer death or personal injury resulting from crimes described in section 247 of title 18, United States Code, and” before “victims of”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 18, 1996.

Attest: ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk.