

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6691

To amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the definition of “crime of violence”, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 31, 2018

Mrs. HANDEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the definition of “crime of violence”, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Community Safety and  
5 Security Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. CRIME OF VIOLENCE.**

7       Section 16 of title 18, United States Code, is amend-  
8 ed to read as follows:

9 **“SEC. 16. CRIME OF VIOLENCE DEFINED.**

10       “(a) The term ‘crime of violence’ means an offense—

1 “(1)(A) that—

2 “(i) is murder, voluntary manslaughter, as-  
3 sault, sexual abuse or aggravated sexual abuse,  
4 abusive sexual contact, child abuse, kidnapping,  
5 robbery, carjacking, firearms use, burglary,  
6 arson, extortion, communication of threats, co-  
7 ercion, fleeing, interference with flight crew  
8 members and attendants, domestic violence,  
9 hostage taking, stalking, human trafficking, pi-  
10 racy, or a terrorism offense as described in  
11 chapter 113B (other than in section 2332d); or

12 “(ii) involves the unlawful possession or  
13 use of a weapon of mass destruction; or

14 “(B) that involves use or unlawful posses-  
15 sion of explosives or destructive devices de-  
16 scribed in 5845(f) of the Internal Revenue Code  
17 of 1986;

18 “(2) that has as an element the use, attempted  
19 use, or threatened use of physical force against the  
20 person or property of another; or

21 “(3) that is an attempt to commit, conspiracy  
22 to commit, solicitation to commit, or aiding and  
23 abetting any of the offenses set forth in paragraphs  
24 (1) and (2).

25 “(b) In this section:

1           “(1) The term ‘abusive sexual contact’ means  
2           conduct described in section 2244(a)(1) and (a)(2).

3           “(2) The terms ‘aggravated sexual abuse’ and  
4           ‘sexual abuse’ mean conduct described in sections  
5           2241 and 2242. For purposes of such conduct, the  
6           term ‘sexual act’ means conduct described in section  
7           2246(2), or the knowing and lewd exposure of geni-  
8           talia or masturbation, to any person, with an intent  
9           to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade, or arouse or  
10          gratify the sexual desire of any person.

11          “(3) The term ‘assault’ means conduct de-  
12          scribed in section 113(a), and includes conduct com-  
13          mitted recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally.

14          “(4) The term ‘arson’ means conduct described  
15          in section 844(i) or unlawfully or willfully damaging  
16          or destroying any building, inhabited structure, vehi-  
17          cle, vessel, or real property by means of fire or ex-  
18          plosive.

19          “(5) The term ‘burglary’ means an unlawful or  
20          unprivileged entry into, or remaining in, a building  
21          or structure, including any nonpermanent or mobile  
22          structure that is adapted or used for overnight ac-  
23          commodation or for the ordinary carrying on of busi-  
24          ness, and, either before or after entering, the per-  
25          son—

1           “(A) forms the intent to commit a crime;

2           or

3           “(B) commits or attempts to commit a

4           crime.

5           “(6) The term ‘carjacking’ means conduct de-  
6           scribed in section 2119, or the unlawful taking of a  
7           motor vehicle from the immediate actual possession  
8           of a person against his will, by means of actual or  
9           threatened force, or violence or intimidation, or by  
10          sudden or stealthy seizure or snatching, or fear of  
11          injury.

12          “(7) The term ‘child abuse’ means the unlawful  
13          infliction of physical injury or the commission of any  
14          sexual act against a child under fourteen by any per-  
15          son eighteen years of age or older.

16          “(8) The term ‘communication of threats’  
17          means conduct described in section 844(e), or the  
18          transmission of any communications containing any  
19          threat of use of violence to—

20                 “(A) demand or request for a ransom or  
21                 reward for the release of any kidnapped person;

22                 or

23                 “(B) threaten to kidnap or injure the per-  
24                 son of another.

1           “(9) The term ‘coercion’ means causing the  
2 performance or non-performance of any act by an-  
3 other person under which such other person has a  
4 legal right to do or to abstain from doing, through  
5 fraud or by the use of actual or threatened force, vi-  
6 olence, or fear thereof, including the use, or an ex-  
7 press or implicit threat of use, of violence to cause  
8 harm, or threats to cause injury to the person, rep-  
9 utation or property of any person.

10           “(10) The term ‘domestic violence’ means any  
11 assault committed by a current or former spouse,  
12 parent, or guardian of the victim, by a person with  
13 whom the victim shares a child in common, by a per-  
14 son who is cohabiting with or has cohabited with the  
15 victim as a spouse, parent, or guardian, or by a per-  
16 son similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guard-  
17 ian of the victim.

18           “(11) The term ‘extortion’ means conduct de-  
19 scribed in section 1951(b)(2)), but not extortion  
20 under color of official right or fear of economic loss.

21           “(12) The term ‘firearms use’ means conduct  
22 described in section 924(c) or 929(a), if the firearm  
23 was brandished, discharged, or otherwise possessed,  
24 carried, or used as a weapon and the crime of vio-  
25 lence or drug trafficking crime during and in rela-

1       tion to which the firearm was possessed, carried, or  
2       used was subject to prosecution in any court of the  
3       United States, State court, military court or tri-  
4       bunal, or tribal court. Such term also includes un-  
5       lawfully possessing a firearm described in section  
6       5845(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (such  
7       as a sawed-off shotgun or sawed-off rifle, silencer,  
8       bomb, or machine gun), possession of a firearm in  
9       violation of sections 922(g)(1), 922(g)(2) and  
10      922(g)(4), possession of a firearm with the intent to  
11      use such firearm unlawfully, or reckless discharge of  
12      a firearm at a dwelling.

13           “(13) The term ‘fleeing’ means knowingly oper-  
14      ating a motor vehicle and, following a law enforce-  
15      ment officer’s signal to bring the motor vehicle to a  
16      stop—

17                   “(A) failing or refusing to comply; or

18                   “(B) fleeing or attempting to elude a law  
19      enforcement officer.

20           “(14) The term ‘force’ means the level of force  
21      capable of causing physical pain or injury or needed  
22      or intended to overcome resistance.

23           “(15) The term ‘hostage taking’ means conduct  
24      described in section 1203.

1           “(16) The term ‘human trafficking’ means con-  
2           duct described in sections 1589, 1590, and 1591.

3           “(17) The term ‘interference with flight crew  
4           members and attendants’ means conduct described  
5           in section 46504 of title 49, United States Code.

6           “(18) The term ‘kidnapping’ means conduct de-  
7           scribed in section 1201(a)(1) or seizing, confining,  
8           inveigling, decoying, abducting, or carrying away  
9           and holding for ransom or reward or otherwise any  
10          person.

11          “(19) The term ‘murder’ means conduct de-  
12          scribed as murder in the first degree or murder in  
13          the second degree described in section 1111.

14          “(20) The term ‘robbery’ means conduct de-  
15          scribed in section 1951(b)(1), or the unlawful taking  
16          or obtaining of personal property from the person or  
17          in the presence of another, against his will, by  
18          means of actual or threatened force, or violence or  
19          intimidation, or by sudden or stealthy seizure or  
20          snatching, or fear of injury, immediate or future, to  
21          his person or property, or property in his custody or  
22          possession, or the person or property of a relative or  
23          member of his family or of anyone in his company  
24          at the time of the taking or obtaining.

1           “(21) The term ‘stalking’ means conduct de-  
2           scribed in section 2261A.

3           “(22) The term ‘weapon of mass destruction’  
4           has the meaning given such term in section  
5           2332a(c).

6           “(23) The term ‘voluntary manslaughter’  
7           means conduct described in section 1112(a).

8           “(c) For purposes of this section, in the case of any  
9           reference in subsection (b) to an offense under this title,  
10          such reference shall include conduct that constitutes an  
11          offense under State or tribal law or under the Uniform  
12          Code of Military Justice, if such conduct would be an of-  
13          fense under this title if a circumstance giving rise to Fed-  
14          eral jurisdiction had existed.

15          “(d) For purposes of this section, the term ‘con-  
16          spiracy’ includes any offense that is a conspiracy to com-  
17          mit another offense under State or Federal law, irrespec-  
18          tive of whether proof of an overt act is required to estab-  
19          lish commission of the conspiracy offense.”.

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