

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Enrolled

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 1026

BY SENATORS WILLIS AND DEEDS

[Passed March 14, 2026; in effect 90 days from
passage (June 12, 2026)]

FILED

2026 APR - 1 P 10:39

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

SB 1026

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1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §61-6-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to increasing the criminal penalties and fines for disturbing religious worship; clarifying that
3 this section does not prohibit conduct protected by the First Amendment; and removing
4 antiquated language.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. CRIMES AGAINST THE PEACE.

§61-6-13. Disturbance of religious worship; penalty.

1 (a) If any person willfully interrupts, obstructs, or substantially disturbs any assembly of
2 people meeting for religious worship, he or she is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction,
3 shall be confined in jail not more than one year and fined not less than \$250 nor more than
4 \$1,000 for each violation.

5 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit peaceful picketing, protest, or
6 other expressive conduct protected by the First Amendment that does not willfully interrupt,
7 obstruct, or substantially disturb any assembly of persons meeting for religious worship.

The Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Delegates hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

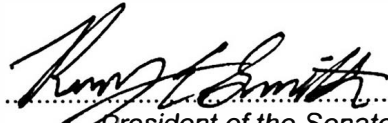

Clerk of the Senate


Clerk of the House of Delegates

Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.

FILED
2026 APR - 1 P 10:39
OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE


President of the Senate


Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 15th
Day of April 2026.


Governor

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAR 13 2013

Time 11:20am