

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 540 Session of  
2007

INTRODUCED BY FRANKEL, BELFANTI, BUXTON, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI,  
CARROLL, COHEN, CURRY, DALEY, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GOODMAN,  
GRUCELA, JAMES, KULA, LEVDANSKY, MANN, M. O'BRIEN, PAYTON,  
REICHLEY, ROEBUCK, ROSS, SCAVELLO, SIPTROTH, SWANGER, WALKO,  
WHEATLEY AND YOUNGBLOOD, MARCH 6, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 6, 2007

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, providing for using symbols of hatred  
3 to intimidate.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 2710.1. Using symbols of hatred to intimidate.

9 (a) Offense defined.--A person commits the offense of using  
10 symbols of hatred to intimidate when the person, with the intent  
11 to intimidate any person or group of persons:

12 (1) Burns, or causes to be burned, a cross:

13 (i) on the property of another person; or

14 (ii) on a highway or on any other public place.

15 (2) Places, or causes to be placed, a swastika:

16 (i) on any synagogue, church or other building or  
17 place used for religious worship or memorial;

1           (ii) at any cemetery or place of burial; or  
2           (iii) on any school, educational facility or  
3           community center owned or operated by a synagogue,  
4           church, congregation or religious body.

5       (b) Grading.--An offense under this section constitutes a  
6       felony of the third degree.

7       Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.