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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1768 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, BAKER, SWANGER, STERN, TALLMAN, CUTLER,  
DAVIDSON, ROCK, C. HARRIS, KAUFFMAN, HICKERNELL, DAY,  
READSHAW, MURT, REGAN AND DENLINGER, OCTOBER 16, 2013

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, OCTOBER 16, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, defining the offense of disrupting  
3 proceedings of house of worship; and imposing a penalty.

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 § 5508.1. Disrupting proceedings of house of worship.

9 (a) Offense defined.--A person commits the offense of  
10 disrupting proceedings of house of worship if the person:

11 (1) Intentionally disturbs, interrupts or disquiets a  
12 house of worship by using profane discourse, rude or indecent  
13 behavior or by making unreasonable noise either within the  
14 house of worship or so near it as to disturb the solemnity of  
15 the proceedings.

16 (2) Intentionally injures, intimidates or interferes  
17 with or attempts to injure, intimidate or interfere with a  
18 person lawfully exercising the free exercise of religion in

1 or outside the house of worship or a person seeking access to  
2 a house of worship, whether by force, threat or physical  
3 obstruction.

4 (b) Grading.--An offense under this section is a misdemeanor  
5 of the third degree.

6 (c) Definition.--As used in this section, the term "house of  
7 worship" means a church, synagogue, mosque or other facility or  
8 place used for religious worship or other religious purpose.

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