

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 BILL NO. 743

By: Gollihare, Alvord,
Thompson, Green, Paxton,
Stanley, and Hall of the
Senate

4 and

5 Lawson of the House

6
7 An Act relating to criminal disturbance; amending 21
8 O.S. 2021, Sections 915 and 916, which relate to
9 disturbance of religious meeting; specifying range of
10 punishment for certain misdemeanor offense;
11 establishing felony offense for certain convictions;
12 specifying range of punishment for certain felony
13 offense; modifying definitions; modifying elements of
14 certain offense; updating statutory language; and
15 declaring an emergency.

16
17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2021, Section 915, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 Section 915. Every person who willfully disturbs, interrupts,
21 or disquiets any assemblage of people met for religious worship, by
22 any of the acts ~~or things hereinafter~~ enumerated, ~~is~~ in Section 916
23 of this title shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor
24 punishable by a fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00),
by imprisonment in the county jail for a term not to exceed one (1)
year, or by both such fine and imprisonment. A person who commits a
second or subsequent offense shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a
felony punishable by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars

1 (\$1,000.00), by imprisonment in the custody of the Department of
2 Corrections for a term not to exceed two (2) years, or by both such
3 fine and imprisonment.

4 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 21 O.S. 2021, Section 916, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 Section 916. The following are the acts deemed to constitute
7 disturbance of a religious meeting as prohibited by Section 915 of
8 this title:

9 1. Uttering any profane discourse, committing any rude or
10 indecent act, or making any unnecessary noise, either within the
11 place where such meeting is held, or so near it as to disturb the
12 order and solemnity of the meeting-;

13 2. Exhibiting or engaging in, within one (1) mile, any ~~shows or~~
14 ~~plays~~ protest, demonstration, show, or play without a license by the
15 proper authority-;

16 3. Engaging in, or aiding or promoting within the like
17 distance, any racing of animals or gaming of any description-; or

18 4. Obstructing in any manner, without authority of law, within
19 ~~the like distance~~ one (1) mile, the free passage along any highway
20 to the place of ~~such~~ the meeting.

21 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
22 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
23 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
24 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

