

100TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 794

To amend chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, to impose criminal penalties and provide a civil action for damage to religious property and for injury to persons in the free exercise of religious beliefs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19 (legislative day, MARCH 17), 1987

Mr. METZENBAUM (for himself, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. WIRTH, Mr. WEICKER, Mr. SANFORD, and Ms. MIKULSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, to impose criminal penalties and provide a civil action for damage to religious property and for injury to persons in the free exercise of religious beliefs.

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

1 **SECTION 1. CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND CIVIL ACTION FOR**
2 **DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS PROPERTY AND**
3 **INJURY TO PERSONS IN THE FREE EXERCISE**
4 **OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.**

5 (a) **OFFENSE.**—Chapter 13 of title 18, United States
6 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new
7 section:

8 **“§ 247. Damage to religious property; injury to persons in**
9 **the free exercise of religious beliefs**

10 “(a) Whoever, travels in, or uses a facility or instrumen-
11 tality of, interstate or foreign commerce and subsequently—

12 “(1) defaces, damages, or destroys any religious
13 real property, because of the religious character of that
14 property; or

15 “(2) obstructs, by force or threat of force, any
16 person in the enjoyment of that person’s free exercise
17 of religious beliefs;

18 shall be punished as provided in subsection (b) of this section.

19 “(b) The punishment for a violation of subsection (a) of
20 this section shall be—

21 “(1) if death results, a fine in accordance with this
22 title and imprisonment for any term of years or for life,
23 or both;

24 “(2) if serious bodily injury results, a fine in ac-
25 cordance with this title and imprisonment for not more
26 than fifteen years, or both; and

