

Calendar No. 453

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 3525**

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**AN ACT**

To amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the Federal jurisdiction over offenses relating to damage to religious property.

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JUNE 20, 1996

Read twice and ordered to be placed on the calendar

Calendar No. 453

104<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 3525**

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 1996

Received

JUNE 20, 1996

Read twice and ordered to be placed on the calendar

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**AN ACT**

To amend title 18, United States Code, to clarify the Federal jurisdiction over offenses relating to damage to religious property.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Church Arson Preven-  
3 tion Act of 1996”.

4 **SEC. 2. DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS PROPERTY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 247 of title 18, United  
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) so that subsection (b) reads as follows:

8 “(b) The circumstances referred to in subsection (a)  
9 are that the offense is in or affects interstate or foreign  
10 commerce.”;

11 (2) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection  
12 (c)” and inserting “subsection (d)”;

13 (3) in subsection (c), by inserting “or (c)” after  
14 “subsection (a)”;

15 (4) by redesignating subsections (c), (d), and  
16 (e), as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respectively;

17 (5) by inserting after subsection (b) the follow-  
18 ing:

19 “(c) Whoever intentionally defaces, damages, or de-  
20 stroys any religious real property because of the race,  
21 color, or ethnic characteristics of any individual associated  
22 with that religious property, or attempts to do so, shall  
23 be punished as provided in subsection (d).”; and

24 (6) in subsection (f) as so redesignated by this  
25 section, by inserting “real” before “property” each  
26 place it appears.

1 (b) COMPENSATION OF VICTIMS.—

2 (1) REQUIREMENT OF INCLUSION IN LIST OF  
3 CRIMES ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION.—Section  
4 1403(d)(3) of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42  
5 U.S.C. 10602(d)(3)) is amended by inserting  
6 “crimes, whose victims suffer death or personal in-  
7 jury, that are described in section 247 of title 18,  
8 United States Code,” after “includes”.

9 (2) PRIORITY IN CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE.—  
10 Section 1404(a)(2)(A) of the Victims of Crime Act  
11 of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10603(a)(2)(A)) is amended by  
12 inserting “victims who suffer death or personal in-  
13 jury resulting from crimes described in section 247  
14 of title 18, United States Code, and” before “victims  
15 of”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 18, 1996.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,

*Clerk.*