

**House File 2579 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2579

BY NORDMAN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act prohibiting disorderly conduct related to religious  
2 services, and providing penalties.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **723.7 Disorderly conduct —**  
2 **religious services.**

3 1. A person shall not intentionally engage in conduct that  
4 substantially obstructs, prevents, or interferes with the orderly  
5 conduct of a religious service or assembly, including by creating  
6 persistent or unreasonable noise, physically obstructing an  
7 entrance, or creating a reasonable apprehension of danger among  
8 congregants.

9 2. A person who commits a violation of this section commits a  
10 class "D" felony.

11 EXPLANATION

12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 Under current law, disorderly conduct is punishable by a range  
15 of penalties from simple misdemeanor to class "C" felony based on  
16 the nature of the offense (Code sections 723.4 and 723.5).

17 This bill provides that a person who intentionally obstructs,  
18 prevents, or interferes with the orderly conduct of a religious  
19 service or assembly, including by creating persistent or  
20 unreasonable noise, physically obstructing an entrance, or  
21 creating a reasonable apprehension of danger among congregants,  
22 is guilty of a class "D" felony. A class "D" felony is  
23 punishable by confinement for no more than five years and a fine  
24 of at least \$1,025 but not more than \$10,245.