

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 1026

BY SENATORS WILLIS AND DEEDS

[Reported February 27, 2026, from the Committee on
the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §61-6-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to increasing the criminal penalties and fines for disturbing religious worship; and removing
3 antiquated language.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. CRIMES AGAINST THE PEACE.

§61-6-13. Disturbance of religious worship; penalty.

1 If any person ~~willfully interrupt, molest or disturb~~ willfully interrupts, molests, or disturbs any
2 assembly of people ~~met~~ meeting for the worship of God, he ~~or she shall be~~ is guilty of a
3 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be confined in jail not more than ~~six months~~ one year
4 and fined not less than ~~\$25~~ \$1,000 nor more than ~~\$100~~ \$5,000 for each violation. ~~Any officer may~~
5 ~~put such the offender under restraint during religious worship, and the court trying the case may~~
6 ~~require bond or recognizance of him or her for not more than one year to be of good behavior.~~