

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1090

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAYHAM

CRIMINAL/PENALTIES: Provides relative to sentencing for arson of a religious building

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 14:52.1(B) and to enact R.S. 14:52.1(C), relative to simple arson  
3 of a religious building; to increase penalties for violations; to provide penalties in  
4 cases involving injury or death; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 14:52.1(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 14:52.1(C) is  
7 hereby enacted to read as follows:

8 §52.1. Simple arson of a religious building

9 \* \* \*

10 B. Whoever commits the crime of simple arson of a religious building shall  
11 be fined not more than ~~fifteen~~ twenty thousand dollars and imprisoned at hard labor  
12 for not less than ~~two~~ eight nor more than ~~fifteen~~ thirty years. At least two years of  
13 the sentence of imprisonment shall be imposed without benefit of parole, probation,  
14 or suspension of sentence.

15 C. When injury or death occurs due to a violation of this Section, the  
16 offender shall be fined not more than twenty thousand dollars and imprisoned at hard  
17 labor for not less than twelve nor more than thirty years. At least two years of the  
18 sentence of imprisonment shall be imposed without benefit of parole, probation, or  
19 suspension of sentence.

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**DIGEST**

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HB 1090 Original

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Bayham

**Abstract:** Increases the penalty for simple arson of a religious building.

Present law provides for the crime of simple arson of a religious building.

Present law provides a penalty of a fine up to \$15,000 and between eight and 15 years of imprisonment.

Proposed law increases the maximum fine from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

Proposed law increases the sentence for violations from between two to 15 years to between eight to 30 years.

Proposed law provides that when injury or death occurs due to a violation, the offender shall be fined not more than \$20,000 and imprisoned not more than 12 nor more than 20 years.

(Amends R.S. 14:52.1(B); Adds R.S. 14:52.1(C))