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H.53

Introduced by Representative Brennan of Colchester

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Crimes; disturbances; Legislature

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the crime of disturbing the legislature.

An act relating to disturbing the legislature

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 1032 is added to read:

§ 1032. DISTURBING THE LEGISLATURE

(a) A person is guilty of disturbing the legislature if he or she, with the intent to disturb or disrupt legislative proceedings, substantially impairs the effective conduct of:

(1) either house of the General Assembly while in session; or

(2) an official meeting of members of either house of the General Assembly convened for the purpose of carrying on government functions.

(b) A person who violates this section shall be imprisoned for not more than 60 days or fined not more than \$500.00, or both. A person who is

1 convicted of a second violation of this section shall be imprisoned for not more
2 than 120 days or fined not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

3 (c) When imposing a sentence under this section, the court shall consider as
4 an aggravating factor whether, prior to conviction of the first offense, the
5 person has been charged with a second or subsequent offense under this
6 section.

7 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

8 This act shall take effect on passage.