

Subject Enhancing penalties for arson to a political organization or motivated by a political purpose

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Overview

This bill creates increased penalties for arson in cases where the building or property is associated with a political organization or where the act is done to make a political statement.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>First degree; political organization.</p> <p>Establishes a crime of arson in the first degree if a person destroys or damages any building through the use of fire or explosives and (1) the building housed a political organization, (2) the offense was committed in whole or substantial part because of an association between a political organization and the building, or (3) the offense was committed in whole or substantial part to make a political statement. The penalty is imprisonment for up to 25 years, a fine of \$40,000, or both. Other forms of first-degree arson carry a maximum penalty of 20 years and a fine of \$20,000 or \$35,000.</p>
2	<p>Political motivation.</p> <p>Establishes an enhanced penalty for the crime of arson in the third degree if a person destroys or damages any real or personal property through the use of fire or explosives and (1) the property is owned or controlled by a political organization, (2) the offense was committed in whole or substantial part because of an association between a political organization and the building, or (3) the offense was committed in whole or substantial part to make a political statement. The bill increases the penalty from a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of \$10,000 to a maximum of 90 months in prison and a fine of \$12,500.</p>
3	<p>Political motivation.</p> <p>Establishes an enhanced penalty for the crime of arson in the fourth degree if a person destroys or damages any personal property in a multiple unit residential building or public building through the use of fire or explosives and (1) the property</p>

Section	Description
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is owned or controlled by a political organization, (2) the offense was committed in whole or substantial part because of an association between a political organization and the building, or (3) the offense was committed in whole or substantial part to make a political statement. The bill increases the penalty from a gross misdemeanor to a felony with a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a fine of \$5,000.

4 **Arson in the fifth degree.**

Establishes an enhanced penalty for the crime of arson in the fifth degree if a person uses fire or explosives to set fire to or burn any real or personal property of value and (1) the property is owned or controlled by a political organization, (2) the offense was committed in whole or substantial part because of an association between a political organization and the building, or (3) the offense was committed in whole or substantial part to make a political statement. The bill increases the penalty from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor.



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