

# HOUSE . . . . . No. 5613

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## *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, May 5, 1988.

The committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2938) of James M. Shannon and David B. Cohen relative to making it unlawful to falsely report a fire, or to threaten to burn or destroy a place of worship, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 5613) ought to pass.

For the committee,

SALVATORE F. DiMASI.

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Eight.

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AN ACT RELATIVE TO MAKING IT UNLAWFUL TO FALSELY REPORT A FIRE,  
OR TO THREATEN TO BURN OR DESTROY A PLACE OF WORSHIP.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Section 127A of Chapter 266 of the General Laws, as appearing  
2 in the 1986 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after  
3 line 15 the following new paragraph: —

4 Whoever threatens to burn, deface, mar, injure, or in any way  
5 destroy a church, synagogue or other building, structure, or place  
6 of worship, shall be punished by imprisonment in a state prison  
7 for not more than twenty years, or by a fine of not more than  
8 ten thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in a jail or house of  
9 correction for not more than two and one-half years, or both such  
10 fine and imprisonment in a jail or house of correction.