

No. 2001-3

AN ACT

HB 328

Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, further providing for desecration or sale of venerated objects.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Section 5509 of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended to read:

§ 5509. Desecration *or sale* of venerated objects.

(a) Offense defined.—A person commits a misdemeanor of the second degree if he:

(1) intentionally desecrates any public monument or structure, or place of worship or burial[, or];

(2) if he intentionally desecrates any other object of veneration by the public or a substantial segment thereof in any public place[.]; *or*

(3) *sells or attempts to sell a veteran's marker as described in section 1913 of the act of August 9, 1955 (P.L.323, No.130), known as The County Code. This paragraph shall not apply to the sale of veterans' markers authorized by statute.*

(b) Definition.—As used in this section, the word “desecrate” means defacing, damaging, polluting or otherwise physically mistreating in a way that the actor knows will outrage the sensibilities of persons likely to observe or discover the action.

Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

APPROVED—The 4th day of May, A.D. 2001.

THOMAS J. RIDGE