

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

**S.F. No. 3847**

(SENATE AUTHORS: LIMMER and Howe)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/19/2024	11634	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety
02/29/2024	11861	Author added Howe

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to public safety; enhancing the penalty for arson directed at a political
- 1.3 organization or motivated by a political purpose; amending Minnesota Statutes
- 1.4 2022, sections 609.561, by adding a subdivision; 609.563, by adding a subdivision;
- 1.5 609.5631, by adding a subdivision; 609.5632.
- 1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.561, is amended by adding a subdivision
- 1.8 to read:
- 1.9 Subd. 4. **First degree; political organization.** Whoever unlawfully by means of fire or
- 1.10 explosives intentionally destroys or damages any building, whether the property of the actor
- 1.11 or another, commits arson in the first degree and may be sentenced to imprisonment for not
- 1.12 more than 25 years or to a fine of not more than \$40,000, or both if:
- 1.13 (1) the building housed a political organization;
- 1.14 (2) the offense was committed in whole or in substantial part because of an actual or
- 1.15 perceived association between the building, building's owner, or building's occupant and
- 1.16 any political organization; or
- 1.17 (3) the offense was committed in whole or in substantial part to make any political
- 1.18 statement.
- 1.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2024, and applies to crimes
- 1.20 committed on or after that date.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.563, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
2.2 read:

2.3 Subd. 1a. **Political motivation.** Whoever violates subdivision 1 may be sentenced to  
2.4 imprisonment for not more than 90 months or to payment of a fine of \$12,500, or both, if:

2.5 (1) the real or personal property is owned or controlled by a political organization;

2.6 (2) the offense was committed in whole or in substantial part because of an actual or  
2.7 perceived association between the real or personal property and any political organization;

2.8 or

2.9 (3) the offense was committed in whole or in substantial part to make any political  
2.10 statement.

2.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2024, and applies to crimes  
2.12 committed on or after that date.

2.13 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.5631, is amended by adding a subdivision  
2.14 to read:

2.15 Subd. 3. **Political motivation.** Whoever violates subdivision 2 may be sentenced to  
2.16 imprisonment for not more than one year or to payment of a fine of \$5,000, or both, if:

2.17 (1) the personal property is owned or controlled by a political organization;

2.18 (2) the offense was committed in whole or in substantial part because of an actual or  
2.19 perceived association between the personal property and any political organization; or

2.20 (3) the offense was committed in whole or in substantial part to make any political  
2.21 statement.

2.22 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2024, and applies to crimes  
2.23 committed on or after that date.

2.24 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 609.5632, is amended to read:

2.25 **609.5632 ARSON IN THE FIFTH DEGREE.**

2.26 (a) Whoever intentionally by means of fire or explosives sets fire to or burns or causes  
2.27 to be burned any real or personal property of value is guilty of a misdemeanor and may be  
2.28 sentenced to imprisonment for not more than 90 days or to payment of a fine of not more  
2.29 than \$1,000, or both.

3.1 (b) Whoever violates paragraph (a) may be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than  
3.2 364 days or to payment of a fine of \$3,000, or both, if:

3.3 (1) the real or personal property is owned or controlled by a political organization;

3.4 (2) the offense was committed in whole or in substantial part because of an actual or  
3.5 perceived association between the real or personal property and any political organization;  
3.6 or

3.7 (3) the offense was committed in whole or in substantial part to make any political  
3.8 statement.

3.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2024, and applies to crimes  
3.10 committed on or after that date.