

SENATE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 1026
AN ACT

To repeal section 578.501, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to protest activities near funeral services, with penalty provisions, an emergency clause, and a contingent effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI,
AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section A. Section 578.501, RSMo, is repealed and two new
2 sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 578.501
3 and 578.502, to read as follows:

4 578.501. 1. This section shall be known as "Spc. Edward
5 Lee Myers' Law".

6 2. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in
7 picketing or other protest activities in front of or about any
8 [church, cemetery, or funeral establishment, as defined by
9 section 333.011, RSMo,] location at which a funeral is held,
10 within one hour prior to the commencement of any funeral, and
11 until one hour following the cessation of any funeral. Each day
12 on which a violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense.
13 Violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor, unless
14 committed by a person who has previously pled guilty to or been

1 found guilty of a violation of this section, in which case the
2 violation is a class A misdemeanor.

3 3. For the purposes of this section, "funeral" means the
4 ceremonies, processions and memorial services held in connection
5 with the burial or cremation of the dead.

6 578.502. 1. This section shall be known as "Spc. Edward
7 Lee Myers Law".

8 2. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in
9 picketing or other protest activities within three hundred feet
10 of or about any location at which a funeral is held, within one
11 hour prior to the commencement of any funeral, and until one hour
12 following the cessation of any funeral. Each day on which a
13 violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense. Violation
14 of this section is a class B misdemeanor, unless committed by a
15 person who has previously pled guilty to or been found guilty of
16 a violation of this section, in which case the violation is a
17 class A misdemeanor.

18 3. For purposes of this section, "funeral" means the
19 ceremonies, processions, and memorial services held in connection
20 with the burial or cremation of the dead.

21 Section B. Because immediate action is necessary to protect
22 the emotional well-being of persons paying respects to the
23 deceased, section 578.501 of this act is deemed necessary for the
24 immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace and
25 safety, and is hereby declared to be an emergency act within the
26 meaning of the constitution, and section 578.501 of this act
27 shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval.

28 Section C. The enactment of section 578.502 shall become

1 effective only on the date the provisions of section 578.501 are
2 finally declared void or unconstitutional by a court of competent
3 jurisdiction and upon notification by the attorney general to the
4 revisor of statutes.