

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1372

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES COX (Sponsor), DOHRMAN, HURST,
ENGLISH AND MITTEN (Co-sponsors).

4482H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 578.501, 578.502, and 578.503, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to protest activities at funeral services, with penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 578.501, 578.502, and 578.503, RSMo, are repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 574.160, to read as follows:

574.160. 1. A person commits the offense of unlawful funeral protest if he or she pickets or engages in other protest activities within three hundred feet of any residence, cemetery, funeral home, church, synagogue, or other establishment during or within one hour before or one hour after the conducting of any actual funeral or burial service at that place.

2. For purposes of this section, "other protest activities" means any action that is disruptive or undertaken to disrupt or disturb a funeral or burial service.

3. For purposes of this section, "funeral" and "burial service" mean the ceremonies and memorial services held in conjunction with the burial or cremation of the dead, but this section does not apply to processions while they are in transit beyond any three hundred foot zone that is established under subsection 1 of this section.

4. The offense of unlawful funeral protest is a class B misdemeanor, unless committed by a person who has previously been found guilty of a violation of this section, in which case it is a class A misdemeanor.

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

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

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

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

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8 a class B misdemeanor, unless committed by a person who has previously pled
9 guilty to or been found guilty of a violation of this section, in which case the
10 violation is a class A misdemeanor.

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

 [578.503. The enactment of section 578.502 shall become effective only
2 on the date the provisions of section 578.501 are finally declared void or
3 unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction and upon notification by the
4 attorney general to the revisor of statutes.]

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