

HB 1372 -- PROTESTS AT FUNERAL SERVICES

SPONSOR: Cox

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Judiciary by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill specifies that a person commits the offense of unlawful funeral protest, a class B misdemeanor, if he or she pickets or engages in other protest activities within 300 feet of a residence, cemetery, funeral home, church, synagogue, or other establishment during or within one hour before or one hour after the conducting of any funeral or burial service at that place. These provisions do not apply to a funeral procession while it is in transit beyond the 300-foot zone. It is a class A misdemeanor if a person who has previously been found guilty of a violation of these provisions commits the offense again.

The bill repeals Sections 578.501, 578.502, and 578.503, RSMo, commonly referred to as "Spc. Edward Lee Myers' Law."

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will clean up our funeral protest law to be in line with 8th Circuit caselaw.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Cox.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.