

HB 274 -- Unlawful Picketing or Protesting of a Funeral

Sponsor: Bahr

This bill changes the laws regarding unlawful picketing or protesting of a funeral. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Specifies that in order to protect the privacy of grieving families so that they may mourn the death of relatives in peace and dignity, it will be unlawful for any person to engage in picketing or other protest activities within 300 feet of or about any location at which a funeral is held within one hour prior to the commencement and until one hour following any funeral;
- (2) Revises the definition of "funeral" to only be the ceremonies and memorial services held in connection with the burial or cremation of the dead but does not include processions;
- (3) Defines "other protest activities" as any action that is disruptive or undertaken to disrupt or disturb a funeral; and
- (4) Repeals the provision which specifies that Section 578.502, RSMo, will become effective only upon Section 578.501 being declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction and upon notification by the Attorney General to the Revisor of Statutes.