

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 91

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ENGLER.

Read 1st time January 11, 2011, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

0460S.011

## AN ACT

To repeal sections 578.501 and 578.502, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to funeral protests, with penalty provisions.

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

Section A. Sections 578.501 and 578.502, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 578.501 and 578.502, to read as follows:

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

2. **In order to protect the privacy of grieving families so that they may mourn the death of relatives in peace and dignity**, it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in picketing or other protest activities in front of or about any location at which a funeral is held, within one hour prior to the commencement of any funeral, and until one hour following the cessation of any funeral. Each day on which a violation occurs shall constitute a separate offense. Violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor, unless committed by a person who has previously pled guilty to or been found guilty of a violation of this section, in which case the violation is a class A misdemeanor.

3. For the purposes of this section[,], **the following terms mean:**

(1) "Funeral" [means], the ceremonies[, processions] and memorial services held in connection with the burial or cremation of the dead;

(2) "Other protest activities", **any action that is disruptive or undertaken to disrupt or disturb a funeral.**

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

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

3           **2. In order to protect the privacy of grieving families so that they**  
4 **may mourn the death of relatives in peace and dignity,** it shall be  
5 unlawful for any person to engage in picketing or other protest activities within  
6 three hundred feet of or about any location at which a funeral is held, within one  
7 hour prior to the commencement of any funeral, and until one hour following the  
8 cessation of any funeral. Each day on which a violation occurs shall constitute  
9 a separate offense. Violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor, unless  
10 committed by a person who has previously pled guilty to or been found guilty of  
11 a violation of this section, in which case the violation is a class A misdemeanor.

12           3. For the purposes of this section[,] **the following terms mean:**

13           **(1) "Funeral" [means],** the ceremonies[, processions] and memorial  
14 services held in connection with the burial or cremation of the dead;

15           **(2) "Other protest activities", any action that is disruptive or**  
16 **undertaken to disrupt or disturb a funeral.**

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Bill

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