

By Senator Benacquisto

27-00250-12

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to funerals, burials, and memorial  
3           services; creating s. 871.015, F.S.; providing a  
4           definition; prohibiting picketing or engaging in other  
5           protest activities within a specified distance of the  
6           property line of the location of a funeral, burial, or  
7           memorial service for certain persons; providing  
8           criminal penalties; providing an effective date.  
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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12           Section 1. Section 871.015, Florida Statutes, is created to  
13 read:

14           871.015 Unlawful protests.-

15           (1) As used in this section, the term "other protest  
16 activities" means any actions that are disruptive or undertaken  
17 to disrupt or disturb a funeral, burial, or memorial service.

18           (2) A person may not knowingly picket or engage in other  
19 protest activities, and a person may not knowingly cause  
20 picketing or other protest activities to occur, within 500 feet  
21 of the property line of any residence, cemetery, funeral home,  
22 house of worship, or other location during or within 1 hour  
23 before or 1 hour after the conducting of a funeral, burial, or  
24 memorial service at that place for any military service member,  
25 emergency response worker, elected official, or minor.

26           (3) A person who violates this section commits a  
27 misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s.  
28 775.082 or s. 775.083.

29           Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2012.