

**SENATE . . . . . No. 1787**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the Year Two Thousand Nine**  
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An Act relevant to peaceful funeral services..

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 42A, of Chapter 272 of the Mass General Laws, as appearing in the  
2 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new  
3 section;-

4 Whoever pickets, loiters or otherwise creates a disturbance within five hundred feet of a  
5 funeral home, church, temple, cemetery, or mortuary shall be punished by fine of not more than  
6 one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than one year in a house of correction or  
7 both.

8 Definitions:

9 1. "Funeral", for the purpose of this section means, the ceremonies, processions and  
10 memorial services held in connection with the burial or cremation of the dead; and

11 2. "Pickets", for the purpose of this section, means protest activities engaged in by a  
12 person or persons within five hundred (500) feet of a funeral home, church, temple, cemetery, or  
13 mortuary within one hour prior to, during and two (2) hours following the funeral.