

CHAPTER 2013-19

House Bill No. 15

An act relating to funerals and burials; creating s. 871.015, F.S.; providing definitions; prohibiting engaging in protest activities within specified distance of the property line of the location of a funeral or burial; providing an exception; providing criminal penalties; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

871.015 Unlawful protests.—

(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) “Funeral or burial” means a service or ceremony offered or provided in connection with the final disposition, memorialization, internment, entombment, or inurnment of human remain or cremated human remains.

(b) “Funeral procession” has the same meaning as provided in s. 316.1974.

(c) “Protest activities” means any action, including picketing, which is undertaken with the intent to interrupt or disturb a funeral or burial.

(2) A person may not knowingly engage in protest activities or knowingly cause protest activities to occur within 500 feet of the property line of a residence, cemetery, funeral home, house of worship, or other location during or within 1 hour before or 1 hour after the conducting of a funeral or burial at that place. This subsection does not prohibit protest activities that occur adjacent to that portion of a funeral procession which extends beyond 500 feet of the property line of the location of the funeral or burial.

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

Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor April 10, 2013.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 10, 2013.