



**Ninety-Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2006
Committee Statement
LB 773**

Hearing Date: January 25, 2006
Committee On: Judiciary

Introducer(s): (Friend)
Title: Prohibit picketing at a funeral

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

- Advanced to General File
 - X Advanced to General File with Amendments
 - Indefinitely Postponed
-

Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Aguilar, Bourne, Combs, Flood, Foley, Friend, Pedersen
	No	
	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Chambers

Proponents:
Sen. Mike Friend
Steve Brunken

Representing:
Introducer
Nebraska Funeral Directors Association

Opponents:
Tim Butz

Representing:
ACLU Nebraska

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 773 proposes to amend Nebraska’s prohibition on unlawful picketing to include picketing of a funeral. LB 773 makes it a class III misdemeanor to picket within 100 feet of the premises of any location where a funeral is being held. Current law prohibits picketing in relation to employment and prohibits the interference or attempted interference with a person’s right to work by using threatening language, following or intercepting a person on their way to or from work, intimidation, assault, or patrolling a person’s home.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment to LB 773 replaces the bill and makes the following changes to the bill as introduced:

- Removes the prohibition on funeral protests from the unlawful picketing statute and enacts it as a separate criminal offense.
- Adds legislative intent language;
- Prohibits protest activities within 300 feet of a cemetery, funeral home, church or other place of worship within one hour prior to the commencement of a funeral ceremony or memorial service and for two hours after the commencement of the service.
- Defines the offense of funeral picketing as a class III misdemeanor (0-3 months and/or \$500 fine); and
- Adds an eclause to the bill.

Senator Patrick J. Bourne, Chairperson