

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 22, 2006 LB 287

sticks around and helps keep making bad bills better. The only thing I do have to add is--and I was talking to some of my vets; I've been out some evenings talking, and one of the places I went to the only problem they had with the bill, they're 100 percent for it, was that 2) unlawful picketing of a funeral is a Class III misdemeanor, and my vets wanted it to be a felony. So I did say I would bring that to the floor of the Legislature. That was their sentiment as far as these people picketing during a time of grief the funerals of their brothers that had died in the war. But again, thanks to both Senator Friend and Senator Chambers for bringing the bill, and I hope that the rest of the body does support it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Combs. Senator Friend, followed by Senator McDonald.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I did on three different occasions...the amendment that Senator Chambers is offering does make this bill better, AM2779. One of the...and I'm glad Senator Bourne weighed in on this, because we worked a long time. From the first time I sat down with Mr. Swanson, we worked a long time this summer and into the fall, and debated, to a certain degree, and I debated with others, about what we should try to accomplish here. The First Amendment, Congress shall pass no law respecting establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof--excuse me--or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances. We think we've found a balance here. Senator Bourne spoke to that, and Senator Chambers did, too. So that's where we're at now. I can't tell you how many individuals sent me e-mail or called me or said, this isn't far enough, 5,000 feet isn't far enough, one mile isn't far enough. But we always kept in mind what we were trying to accomplish, and everybody out here so far has spoken to that. People come up here and try to challenge this law, this stuff has met judicial scrutiny. There are places around the state (sic) that have passed legislation that I don't believe will. I'm not going to name names; there's 25 other states that have done this. This will, folks, I believe that,