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FLOOR DEBATE

March 22, 2006 LB 287

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Flood, would you like to make a motion, please?

SENATOR FLOOD: Mr. President, I move the advancement of LB 287 to E & R for engrossing.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the motion to advance LB 287 to E & R Initial. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, in view of some of the questions Senator Beutler raised, if he would look in line 14, for example, on page 1, they're talking about these various areas where privacy and so forth will be maintained, and on line 14, they say mortuaries, churches, and other places of worship. My amendment had inserted after that, during a funeral, so that it ties these restrictions to what the bill is dealing with. And in line 21, where it talks about picketing, the offense, if it's committed, is found on page 2. A person commits the offense of unlawful picketing of a funeral, if he or she engages in picketing, and so forth. So in line 21 on page 1, I didn't want the word "picketing" to stand unmodified, because it might conflict with picketing somewhere else, be overly broad here. So after the word "picketing" I inserted the words "of a funeral," so it would say, "picketing of a funeral" means protest activities engaged in by a person, and so forth, located within this distance and the rest of it. Trying to narrow the definition of some of these words so that the bill will address, to the extent that we can do it, only that discrete type--and when I say discrete, I mean separate, distinct--type of conduct that is provoked by a funeral and the attendant activities. So my final words will just echo and repeat what I've said before. Except for what this bill is addressing, I would not support legislation of this kind, if we were talking about speech, in general. But it has to be understood in the light of some of the examples that Senator Beutler brought to us. I believe Senator Friend has done as much as can be done, and Jeff, with the Judiciary Committee's staff, has done a good job of trying