

**PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS AT FUNERALS**

2007 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Ron Bigelow**

Senate Sponsor: Jon J. Greiner

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill provides a criminal penalty for certain activities done with the intent to disrupt a funeral or memorial service.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ provides definitions; and
- ▶ provides that it is a class B misdemeanor for a person to do any of the following during the period starting 60 minutes before a memorial service and ending 60 minutes after conclusion of the memorial service with intent to disrupt the memorial service:

- knowingly block or impede entry to or from the memorial service;
- block or impede a funeral procession;
- engage in certain disruptive activities within 200 feet of a memorial service; or
- engage in unreasonable noise.

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**76-9-108**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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30 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

31 Section 1. Section **76-9-108** is enacted to read:

32 **76-9-108. Disrupting a funeral or memorial service.**

33 (1) As used in this section:

34 (a) "Funeral procession" means a procession of two or more motor vehicles where:

35 (i) the operators of the vehicles identify themselves as being part of the procession by  
36 having the lamps or lights of the vehicle on and by keeping in close formation with the other  
37 vehicles in the procession;

38 (ii) at least one vehicle contains the body or remains of a deceased person being  
39 memorialized; and

40 (iii) the vehicles are going to or from a memorial service.

41 (b) "Memorial service" means a wake, funeral, graveside service, burial, or other  
42 ceremony or rite held in connection with the burial or cremation of an individual.

43 (c) "Memorial site" means a church, synagogue, mosque, funeral home, mortuary,  
44 cemetery, grave site, mausoleum, or other place at which a memorial service is conducted.

45 (d) "Disruptive activity" means:

46 (i) a loud or disruptive oration or speech that is not part of the memorial service;

47 (ii) the display of a placard, banner, poster, flag, or other item that is not part of the  
48 memorial service; or

49 (iii) the distribution of any handbill, pamphlet, leaflet, or other written material or other  
50 item that is not part of the memorial service.

51 (2) A person is guilty of a class B misdemeanor if the person, with intent to disrupt the  
52 memorial service, does any of the following during the period beginning 60 minutes  
53 immediately before the scheduled commencement of a memorial service and ending 60  
54 minutes after the conclusion of a memorial service:

55 (a) obstructs, hinders, impedes, or blocks another person's entry to or exit from the  
56 memorial site;

57 (b) obstructs, hinders, impedes, or blocks a funeral procession;

58            (c) makes unreasonable noise; or

59            (d) engages in a disruptive activity within 200 feet of the memorial service.