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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 535 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY STEFANO, BROWNE, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER, KILLION,  
K. WARD, J. WARD AND WHITE, APRIL 8, 2019

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REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, APRIL 8, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Providing for time and place prohibition of picketing at  
2 funerals and for violations.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Anti-  
7 Picketing at Funerals Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Funeral." A ceremony or memorial service held in connection  
13 with the burial or cremation of a decedent. The term does not  
14 include funeral processions on public streets or highways.

15 "Picketing." Protest activities engaged in by an individual  
16 located within 500 feet of a cemetery, mortuary, church or other  
17 place of worship used as part of a funeral.

18 Section 3. Picketing prohibited.

1       No individual may picket a funeral during the time period  
2 beginning one hour prior to the start of a funeral and up to and  
3 including one hour following the end of the funeral.

4 Section 4. Violations.

5       The following shall apply:

6           (1) A first violation of section 3 shall constitute a  
7 misdemeanor of the third degree.

8           (2) A second or subsequent violation of section 3 shall  
9 constitute a misdemeanor of the first degree.

10 Section 5. Effective date.

11       This act shall take effect in 60 days.