

HB 931 -- Missouri Funeral Demonstration Zone

Sponsor: Johnson

This bill establishes a funeral demonstration zone which will be any area located within 250 feet of any funeral, funeral home, cemetery, crematorium, or funeral procession route. Any person wishing to demonstrate within this zone two hours prior to through two hours following the commencement of a funeral must first acquire a Missouri funeral demonstration permit from the Division of Professional Registration within the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration. The division director must develop the permit, a filing process, and a form for a person to use when applying for a permit. The division director must issue a permit to any person who applies and pays a permit fee of \$10,000. Twenty-five dollars of the permit fee must go to the division to defray the administrative costs, and the remainder must go to the newly created Family Funeral Victimization Fund. The division director must develop guidelines for dividing and distributing the moneys in the fund each year among the families victimized by funeral protests during that year.

Any person who fails to obtain a valid permit prior to demonstrating in a funeral demonstration zone will be guilty of a class A misdemeanor, unless he or she has previously pled guilty to or been found guilty of a violation of these provisions in which case he or she will be guilty of a class D felony.

The bill also repeals Sections 578.502 and 578.503, RSMo, regarding the unlawful picketing or protesting of a funeral.