

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 26, 2011  
AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 10, 2011  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2011  
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 23, 2011

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 888**

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**Introduced by Senator Lieu  
(Coauthor: Senator Anderson)**

February 18, 2011

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An act to add Section 594.37 to the Penal Code, relating to crime.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 888, as amended, Lieu. Crime: picketing.

Existing law makes it a crime for a person to disturb, obstruct, detain, or interfere with any person carrying or accompanying human remains to a cemetery or funeral establishment, or engaged in a funeral service or an interment.

This bill would make it a crime, punishable by a fine not exceeding \$1,000, imprisonment in a county jail not exceeding 6 months, or by both, for a person to engage in picketing, as defined, except upon private property, which is targeted at a funeral, as defined, during the time period beginning one hour prior to the funeral and ending one hour after the conclusion of the funeral. The bill would set forth related findings and declarations.

Because this bill would create a new crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares  
2 the following:

3 (1) It is generally recognized that families have a substantial  
4 interest in organizing and attending funerals for deceased relatives.

5 (2) The interests of families in privately and peacefully  
6 mourning the loss of deceased relatives are violated when funerals  
7 are disrupted by picketing.

8 (3) Picketing of funerals causes emotional disturbance and  
9 distress to grieving families who participate in funerals.

10 (4) Full opportunity exists for the exercise of freedom of speech  
11 and other constitutional rights at times other than within one hour  
12 prior to or during a funeral and one hour following the conclusion  
13 of a funeral.

14 (b) The purpose of this act is to protect the privacy of grieving  
15 families and to preserve the peaceful character of cemeteries,  
16 mortuaries, and churches during the time one hour before and one  
17 hour after a funeral.

18 SEC. 2. Section 594.37 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

19 594.37. (a) It is unlawful, except upon private property, for a  
20 person to engage in picketing targeted at a funeral during the time  
21 period beginning one hour prior to the funeral and ending one hour  
22 after the conclusion of the funeral.

23 (b) Any violation of subdivision (a) is punishable by a fine not  
24 exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), imprisonment in a county  
25 jail not exceeding six months, or by both that fine and  
26 imprisonment.

27 (c) For purposes of this section:

28 (1) "Funeral" means the ceremony, or memorial service, held  
29 in connection with the burial or cremation of a deceased person.

30 (2) ~~"Picketing"~~ "Picketing", for purposes of only this section,  
31 means protest activities engaged in by any person within 1,000  
32 feet of a burial site, mortuary, or place of worship.

1 (3) “Protest activities” includes oration, speech, use of sound  
2 amplification equipment in a manner that makes speech or oration  
3 audible to participants in a funeral, or similar conduct that is not  
4 part of the funeral, before an assembled group of people.

5 (4) *“Targeted at” means directed at or towards the deceased*  
6 *person or the attendees of a funeral, as defined in paragraph (1),*  
7 *because of his, her, or their marital status, race, natural origin,*  
8 *age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, medical*  
9 *condition, religious creed, ancestry, mental disability, physical*  
10 *disability, profession, or activities participated in during his, her,*  
11 *or their lives.*

12 (d) The provisions of this section are severable. If any provision  
13 of this section or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall  
14 not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect  
15 without the invalid provision or application.

16 SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
17 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
18 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school  
19 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or  
20 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
21 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of  
22 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within  
23 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
24 Constitution.