

*CORRECTED  
SESSION OF 2006*

## **SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON SENATE BILL NO. 421**

As Amended by House Committee on  
Federal and State Affairs

### **Brief\***

SB 421 would amend the Kansas Funeral Picketing Act by prohibiting persons from engaging in picketing or a directed march within 300 yards of any entrance to any cemetery, church, mortuary, or other location where a funeral is held or conducted.

The prohibition would commence within one hour prior to, during, and two hours following the commencement of a funeral. Picketers also would be prohibited from blocking public access while engaged in picketing or protesting.

The bill would define a funeral as any ceremony, procession, or memorial service in connection with the death of a person. The bill also would expand the definition of picketing to include churches or other locations where a funeral is held or conducted.

### **Background**

Proponents of the bill as introduced included Senators Schodorf, McGinn, and Goodwin; Representatives Wilk and Tafanelli; the Lieutenant Governor; members of the Patriot Guard of Kansas; Brandy Sacco; and representatives of the American Legion, Sedgwick County Government, and Kansas Funeral Directors Association.

Opponents included members of the Westboro Baptist Church and Stephan Drain.

Proponents of the bill as introduced in the House were the Lieutenant Governor; Representative Mario Goico; Senator Jean Schodorf; members of the American Patriot Guard; the American Legion Riders; Representative Lee Tafanelli; two individuals and a

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\*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

pastor. Several persons submitted written testimony.

Opponents included members of the Westboro Baptist Church and Steve Drain.

The Senate Committee amended the bill by clarifying the definition of funeral and picketing and expanded on the conditions where picketing or protesting can occur.

The House Committee amended the bill by deleting the exception for picketing on public streets, public sidewalks or other public places. Also, the Committee amended the distance for picketing from 300 feet to 300 yards.

There was no fiscal note available at the time of passage of the bill.