



NEWS RELEASE

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Senate approves Deig amendment to protect victims' rights

INDIANAPOLIS— An amendment proposed by State Senator Bob Deig (D-Mount Vernon) was passed by consent today in the Senate. The amendment would limit individuals with a protective order against them from having the authority to make funeral or other final disposition arrangements for an alleged victim.

The amendment to House Bill (HB) 1234, which adds language from Sen. Deig's Senate Bill 78, provides that a person ordinarily approved by statute to make final arrangements for a decedent may not do so if, before death, a protective order existed between the decedent and the person.

"This piece of legislation is important because it protects victims' rights and ensures that the deceased and the family are treated with respect," said Sen. Deig.

Sen. Deig proposed this legislation after learning of a woman in his district who passed away while she had a protective order on her husband. Since her husband was still legally her "next-of-kin" he had the right to make her funeral arrangements and did so with little respect for the deceased or her family.

HB 1234 will now move to the House to consider changes made by the Senate.

For more information on Sen. Deig, his legislative agenda or other State Senate business call 1-800-382-9467 or visit www.senatedemocrats.in.gov.

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