



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Senate approves additional protections for victims of violent crime** *Bill denies right to make funeral decisions for deceased relative under a protective order*

INDIANAPOLIS— Legislation with an added provision by State Senator Bob Deig (D-Mount Vernon) that limits individuals with a protective order against them from having the authority to make funeral or other final disposition arrangements for the deceased was passed by a 49 to 1 vote in the Senate on Monday.

House Bill (HB) 1234, which adds language from Sen. Deig's proposed Senate Bill 78, provides that a person ordinarily approved by statute to make final arrangements for a decedent may not do so if the decedent had filed a protection order against the person and the protection order currently is in effect.

"This bill is important because it protects victims' rights by ensuring 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 also expedites the issuance of the no contact order after an arrest in the investigation of a violent crime. The change will prevent a defendant charged with a violent crime from any direct or indirect contact with the victim for up to 10 days following the defendant's release on bail. Following a court hearing, the period may be extended.

HB 1234 now returns to the House where Senate amendments will be considered.

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](http://www.senatedemocrats.in.gov).

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