

SB247 INTRODUCED



1 SB247
2 261PKSS-1
3 By Senator Orr
4 RFD: County and Municipal Government
5 First Read: 18-Mar-25



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would prohibit a person from using artificial noise amplification to picket or protest at or near a residence of any individual with the intent to harass, intimidate, or disturb.

This bill would prohibit a person from picketing or protesting at or near the residence of any individual with the intent to harass, intimidate, or disturb during the period starting 30 minutes after sunset and ending 30 minutes before sunrise.

This bill would prohibit a person from blocking any public road, the ingress or egress of any residence, or the ingress or egress of any place of employment while picketing or protesting.

This bill would provide criminal penalties for violations.

This bill would require law enforcement officers to ask a person who is picketing or protesting to peacefully leave the premises before placing that person under arrest.

This bill would allow municipalities or counties to adopt ordinances or resolutions to regulate the time and noise level of any picketing or protesting in a residential area.



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A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to crimes and offenses; to prohibit a person from picketing or protesting in certain circumstances; to allow counties and municipalities to adopt ordinances or regulations regarding time and noise regulations in certain circumstances; and to provide criminal penalties for violations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER. An officer employed by the state, a county, or a municipality who is certified by the Alabama Peace Officers' Standards and Training Commission and who has the power to arrest.

(2) RESIDENCE. A building or structure, having a physical address or street number, that provides shelter in which an individual resides.

(b) No person may use artificial noise amplification to picket or protest at or near a residence occupied or used by any individual with the intent to harass, intimidate, or disturb that individual or other individuals who reside at that residence.

(c) No person may picket or protest at or near a residence occupied or used by any individual with the intent



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57 to harass, intimidate, or disturb that individual or other
58 individuals who reside at that residence during the period
59 starting 30 minutes after sunset and ending 30 minutes before
60 sunrise.

61 (d) No person may block any public road, the ingress or
62 egress of any residence, or the ingress or egress of any place
63 of employment while picketing or protesting.

64 (e) A violation of this section is a Class C
65 misdemeanor. A second or subsequent violation of this section
66 is a Class B misdemeanor.

67 (f) Prior to making an arrest for a violation of this
68 section, a law enforcement officer shall instruct the person
69 who is picketing or protesting to immediately and peaceably
70 disperse.

71 (g) (1) Municipalities and counties, by ordinance or
72 resolution, may adopt more stringent regulations to limit the
73 time frame and noise level of any picketing or protesting in
74 residential areas.

75 (2) Violations of ordinances or resolutions adopted
76 pursuant to this subsection shall be enforced in the same
77 manner as violations of this section.

78 (h) Nothing in this section shall limit a person's
79 freedom of speech or freedom to assemble in any public park or
80 other similar traditional public forum.

81 Section 2. This act shall become effective on October
82 1, 2025.