



General Assembly

February Session, 2014

Raised Bill No. 156

LCO No. 1123



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DESECRATION OF PROPERTY
LOCATED IN A CEMETERY.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 53a-218 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2014*):

3 (a) A person is guilty of interference with a cemetery or burial
4 ground when [he] such person, without having authorization [of the]
5 from an individual or entity, in the following order of priority: (1) The
6 owner of the burial lot, [or] (2) the surviving spouse of the deceased,
7 (3) a lineal descendant of the deceased, or [of] (4) the municipality,
8 cemetery association or person or authority responsible for the control
9 or management of the cemetery or burial ground [: (1) Intentionally]
10 (A) intentionally destroys, mutilates, defaces, injures or removes any
11 tomb, monument, gravestone or other structure placed or designed for
12 a memorial of the dead, or any portion or fragment thereof, or any
13 fence, railing, curb or other enclosure for the burial of the dead, in or
14 from any cemetery or burial ground; or [(2)] (B) wantonly or
15 maliciously disturbs the contents of any tomb or grave in any cemetery

16 or burial ground.

17 (b) Interference with a cemetery or burial ground is a class [C
18 felony] A misdemeanor and any person found guilty under this
19 section shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2014</i>	53a-218

Statement of Purpose:

To clarify the state statute relating to interference with a cemetery or burial ground in order to ensure that law enforcement personnel take proper action in responding to a complaint alleging a violation of the statute.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]