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[SF 316](#) – Permissive Reporting, Veterinarians (LSB1696SV)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New

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## **Description**

[Senate File 316](#) provides immunity to administrative, civil, and criminal liability to licensed veterinarians engaged in the following activities:

- Cooperate with a peace officer in a matter relating to the alleged conduct of a client that would result in a misdemeanor or felony under Iowa Code chapter [717B](#), [717C](#), or [717D](#), which pertain to the mistreatment of animals.
- Cooperate with a local authority or law enforcement to rescue a threatened animal.
- Participate in a dispositional proceeding.
- Provide competent and truthful evidence in an administrative, civil, or criminal case that would result in a misdemeanor or felony under Iowa Code chapter [717B](#), [717C](#), or [717D](#).

A licensed veterinarian who knowingly provides false information regarding a client's alleged conduct is subject to disciplinary action, civilly liable for damages caused by the false information, and guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

## **Background**

A licensed veterinarian is a person who has a valid license to practice veterinary medicine as defined in Iowa Code chapter [169](#).

Iowa Code chapters [717B](#), [717C](#), and [717D](#) regulate the mistreatment of animals, bestiality, and animal contest events, respectively.

A simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for up to 30 days and a fine of between \$105 and \$855.

## **Assumptions**

- The following will not change over the projection period: charge, conviction, and sentencing patterns and trends; prisoner length of stay (LOS); revocation rates; plea bargaining; and other criminal justice system policies and practices.
- A lag effect of six months is assumed from the effective date of this Bill to the date of first entry of affected offenders into the correctional system.
- Marginal costs for county jails cannot be estimated due to a lack of data. For purposes of this analysis, the marginal cost for county jails is assumed to be \$50 per day.

## **Correctional Impact**

Senate File 316 establishes a new simple misdemeanor. As a result, the correctional impact cannot be estimated due to a lack of existing data. A conviction for a simple misdemeanor does not result in a prison sentence, but does carry the possibility of confinement in jail for up to 30 days. Refer to the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) memo addressed to the General Assembly, [Cost Estimates Used for Correctional Impact Statements](#), dated January 20, 2023, for information related to the correctional system.

**Minority Impact**

Senate File 316 creates a new offense and the minority impact cannot be determined due to a lack of conviction data. Refer to the LSA memo addressed to the General Assembly, [Minority Impact Statement](#), dated January 20, 2023, for information related to minorities in the criminal justice system.

**Fiscal Impact**

The fiscal impact related to the creation of a new criminal offense cannot be estimated due to a lack of existing data. The average State cost for one simple misdemeanor conviction ranges from \$35 to \$375.

**Sources**

Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning, Department of Human Rights  
Legislative Services Agency

/s/ Jennifer Acton

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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