



[HF 231](#) – Burglary, Sex Abuse (LSB1323HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House File 231](#) establishes that a person convicted of sexual abuse committed during a burglary shall, in addition to any other punishment provided, also be sentenced to a special sentence committing the person into the lifetime custody of the Director of the Department of Corrections (DOC), with eligibility for parole as provided in Iowa Code chapter [906](#). Under current law, a person commits burglary in the first degree, a Class B felony under Iowa Code section [713.3](#), if, while perpetrating the burglary in or upon an occupied structure where one or more individuals reside, the person performs or participates in a sex act that constitutes sexual abuse under Iowa Code section [709.1](#).

A person who commits sexual abuse during a burglary is classified as a Tier III sex offender under Iowa Code section [692A.102](#)(1)(c)(17), and is required to register as such.

Background

Current law provides that a person convicted of a Class C felony or greater under Iowa Code chapter [709](#) (Sexual Abuse), or a Class C felony under Iowa Code section [728.12](#) (Sexual Exploitation of a Minor), shall be sentenced to a special sentence committing the person into the lifetime custody of the Director of the DOC, with eligibility for parole as provided in Iowa Code chapter 906.

A sex offender who has been sentenced to a special sentence under Iowa Code section [903B.1](#) is required to register on the Sex Offender Registry for a period equal to the term of the special sentence.

Under current law, a Class B felony is punishable by confinement of no more than 25 years.

Assumptions

- The following will not change over the projection period: charge, conviction, and sentencing patterns and trends; prisoner length of stay; 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.
- The average daily marginal cost per offender under a special sentence is assumed to be \$7.05 per day.

Correctional Impact

House File 231 expands the penalty associated with the crime of first-degree burglary by requiring an offender to be sentenced to a special sentence if, during the commission of the crime, the offender performs or participates in a sex act that constitutes sexual abuse. The DOC expects the impact of HF 231 to be minimal as crimes involving burglary in the first degree

and concurrent sexual abuse occur infrequently. Although the average daily marginal cost to supervise an individual under a special sentence is approximately 31.0% higher, at a cost of \$7.05 daily rather than \$5.38 daily, the DOC estimates that the fiscal impact of HF 231 will be minimal as it is current practice to place individuals who commit crimes of such nature under special supervision.

Table 1 provides estimates for sentencing to State prison, parole, probation, or Community Based Corrections (CBC) residential facilities; length of stay (LOS) under those supervisions; and supervision marginal costs per day for all convictions of Class B felonies. In FY 2020, there were two convictions of sexual abuse committed during a burglary, and both of these convicted individuals had already been placed under a lifetime special sentence due to their previous sex-crime-related convictions. Refer to the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) memo addressed to the General Assembly, [Cost Estimates Used for Correctional Impact Statements](#), dated January 22, 2021, for information related to the correctional system.

Table 1 — Sentencing Estimates and Length of Stay (LOS)

Conviction Offense Class	Percent to Prison	Avg Length of Stay Prison (months)	FY 20 Marginal Cost Per Day Prison	Percent Ordered to Probation	Avg LOS on Probation	Avg Cost Per Day on Probation	Percent Sentenced to CBC Residential Facility	FY 20 Marginal Cost CBC Per Day	Percent Ordered to County Jail	Avg Length of Stay in County Jail	Marginal Cost Per Day	Avg LOS on Parole	FY 20 Average Cost Per Day Parole
Class B Felony (Persons)	93.0%	85.3	\$20.33	6.6%	38.7	\$5.38	4%	\$14.78	57.9%	N/A	\$50.00	33.2	\$5.38

Minority Impact

The minority impact of HF 231 is as follows: African Americans comprised 4.1% of the adult population in of the State in FY 2020 and 33.3% of the convictions under Iowa Code section [713.3](#) offenses in FY 2020. This exceeds the population proportion of the State, which would lead to a racial impact if trends remain constant. Due to low numbers of other minority populations, the impact on those populations cannot be assessed. Refer to the LSA memo addressed to the General Assembly, [Minority Impact Statement](#), dated January 27, 2021, for information related to minorities in the criminal justice system.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of HF 231 cannot be estimated. The Bill expands the penalty associated with an existing offense and the resulting cost to the justice system cannot be estimated.

Table 2 shows estimates for the average State cost per offense class type. The estimates include operating costs incurred by the Judicial Branch, the State Public Defender, and the DOC for one additional conviction. The cost would be incurred across multiple fiscal years for prison and parole supervision.

Table 2 — Average State Cost Per Offense Class Type

Offense Class	Total Minimum Cost	Total Maximum Cost
Class B Felony (Persons)	\$ 12,700	\$ 35,800

Sources

Department of Corrections
Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division, Department of Human Rights.

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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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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