



[HF 2609](#) – Campaign Material, Synthetic Media Disclosure (LSB5522HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House File 2609](#) relates to synthetic media disclosures in campaign materials. The Bill provides definitions and requires that published material containing synthetic media have the words “this content generated using synthetic media” prominently displayed. Any person who is responsible for the published material has the sole responsibility and liability for including the disclosure statement. The inclusion of the disclosure statement does not preclude a person from pursuing any other remedies under law for the publication of synthetic media.

The Bill requires the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board (IECDB) to adopt administrative rules pursuant to Iowa Code chapter [17A](#) to implement the Bill.

Background

Pursuant to Iowa Code section [68A.701](#), any person who willfully violates the provisions of Iowa Code chapter [68A](#) is guilty of a serious misdemeanor upon conviction. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement of no more than one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560.

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.
- County jail data is unavailable. For purposes of this analysis, the marginal cost for county jails is assumed to be \$50 per day.
- Conviction data reflects the total number of convictions in adult court, which may include multiple convictions per individual. Not all convictions lead to incarceration, and there may be a delay between conviction and prison admission, which can contribute to differences in totals.
- A six-month delay is assumed from the effective date of the Bill to the date the first offender will enter the correctional system.
- Offender-based convictions are a count of individuals convicted of the same offense. Each offender is counted only once per Iowa Code section, regardless of the number of individual convictions.
- Admissions are a count of individuals newly admitted to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for supervision during a selected time period, based on the most serious offense committed.

Correctional Impact

House File 2609 creates a new offense within Iowa Code chapter 68A. The correctional impact of the Bill cannot be determined because the number of new convictions cannot be estimated.

Figure 1 shows estimates for sentencing to State prison, parole, probation, or Community-

Based Corrections (CBC) residential facilities; LOS in months under those supervisions; and supervision marginal costs per day for a serious misdemeanor.

Figure 1 — Sentencing Estimates and LOS in Months

Conviction Offense Class	Percent Ordered to State Prison	FY 2025 Avg LOS in Prison (All Releases)	Marginal Cost Per Day Prison	Percent Ordered to Probation	FY 2025 Field Avg LOS on Probation	Avg Cost Per Day Probation	Marginal Cost Per Day CBC	Marginal Cost Per Day Jail	FY 2025 Field Avg LOS on Parole	Marginal Cost Per Day Parole
Serious Misdemeanor	2.3%	7.3	\$23.07	44.8%	21.0	\$8.00	\$16.35	\$50.00	N/A	\$8.00

Refer to the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) memo addressed to the General Assembly, [Cost Estimates Used for Correctional Impact Statements](#), dated January 12, 2026, for information related to the correctional system.

Minority Impact

House File 2609 creates a new offense within Iowa Code chapter 68A. The minority impact of the Bill cannot be determined because the number of new convictions cannot be estimated. Refer to the LSA memo addressed to the General Assembly, [Minority Impact Statements](#), dated January 12, 2026, for information related to minorities in the criminal justice system.

Fiscal Impact

House File 2609 creates a new offense within Iowa Code chapter 68A, and the number of convictions is unknown. The average State cost per serious misdemeanor is between \$350 and \$6,200. This includes operating costs incurred by the Judicial Branch, the Indigent Defense Fund, and the DOC. Any cost increase or decrease would be incurred across multiple fiscal years for prison and parole supervision.

Sources

Division of Data, Planning, and Improvement (DPI), Department of Management (DOM)
Department of Corrections

/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.
