



[HF 2348](#) – Animal Torture, Criminal Offense and Penalty (LSB2444HV)
Staff Contact: Justus Thompson (515.725.2249) justus.thompson@legis.iowa.gov
Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House File 2348](#) relates to the crime of animal torture. Under the Bill, a person is guilty of animal torture if the person intentionally or knowingly crushes, burns, drowns, suffocates, impales, or otherwise subjects an animal to serious injury or death or causes, directs, or provides anything of value to another person to do the same. The Bill increases the penalty from an aggravated misdemeanor to a Class D felony.

House File 2348 also increases the penalty from a Class D felony to a Class C felony for a person who has previously been convicted of committing any of the following:

- Animal abuse (Iowa Code section [717B.2](#)).
- Animal neglect punishable as a serious misdemeanor or aggravated misdemeanor (Iowa Code section [717B.3](#)).
- Animal torture under the Bill, injury to or interference with a police service dog (Iowa Code section [717B.9](#)).
- Bestiality (Iowa Code section [717C.1](#)).
- An act involving a prohibited animal contest (Iowa Code section [717D.2](#)).

Background

Under current law, a person is guilty of animal torture if they intentionally or knowingly inflict on an animal severe and prolonged or repeated physical pain that causes the animal's serious injury or death.

In FY 2025, there were no convictions or individuals admitted to prison, probation, or parole on a most serious offense under Iowa Code sections 717B.3A(1), 717B.3A(4), or 717B.3A(5).

An aggravated misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for up to two years and a fine of at least \$855 but not more than \$8,540. A Class D felony is punishable by confinement for up to five years and a fine of at least \$1,025 but not more than \$10,245. A Class C felony is punishable by confinement for up to 10 years and a fine of at least \$1,370 but not more than \$13,660.

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

The correctional impact of the Bill cannot be determined because the number of new convictions cannot be estimated, but is anticipated to be minimal. **Figure 1** shows sentencing estimates 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 an aggravated misdemeanor, a Class D felony, and a Class C felony.

Figure 1 — Sentencing Estimates and Length of Stay (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
Aggravated Misdemeanor Non-Persons	31.1%	9.3	\$23.07	37.1%	28.4	\$8.00	\$16.35	\$50.00	11.2	\$8.00
D Felony Non-Persons	84.2%	12.5	\$23.07	69.4%	41.4	\$8.00	\$16.35	\$50.00	15.5	\$8.00
C Felony Non-Persons	84.0%	16.8	\$23.07	66.4%	51.4	\$8.00	\$16.35	\$50.00	24.3	\$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

The minority impact cannot be determined since it is not known how many additional convictions would result from the changes under the Bill. 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

The fiscal impact of the Bill is estimated to be minimal. **Figure 2** and **Figure 3** show the average State cost per relevant offense and the estimated cost increase for one conviction from the increased penalty under the Bill. The estimated impact to the General Fund includes operating costs incurred by the Judicial Branch, the Indigent Defense Fund, and the DOC. The costs would be incurred across multiple fiscal years for prison and parole supervision.

Figure 2 — Average Cost Per Conviction — First Offense

Offense Class	Average Cost Range
Class D Felony (HF 2348)	\$13,000 to \$18,100
Aggravated Misdemeanor (Current Law)	\$8,300 to \$12,200
Additional Cost	\$4,700 to \$5,900

