



Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division

[SF 2280](#) – Crimes Against Judicial Officers and Professional Permits to Carry (LSB5545SV.1)
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Fiscal Note Version – As amended and passed by the Senate

Description

[Senate File 2280](#) relates to the safety of persons in certain professions. The Bill has four divisions.

Division I — Professional Permit to Carry Weapons

Description

Division I expands eligibility for a professional permit to carry weapons to include a member of the General Assembly, judicial officers, the Attorney General, deputy attorneys general, and assistant attorneys general. The Division grants authorization to go armed anywhere in the State at all times, including on school grounds. The Division adds that an application for a permit by the Attorney General, a deputy attorney general, or an assistant attorney general shall be delivered to the sheriff for the county in which the applicant resides. Such permits remain valid for the duration of the holder's period of employment unless otherwise canceled and must be surrendered upon termination of employment.

The Division requires that weapons carried inside a courtroom by a permit holder be concealed, except for peace officers or correctional officers performing their official duties. Further, the Supreme Court is allowed through rulemaking to impose additional training or other requirements on judicial officers possessing permits issued under Iowa Code section [724.6](#).

Fiscal Impact

Division I of the Bill is estimated to have minimal fiscal impact.

Division II — Threats Against Members of the General Assembly or Judicial Officers — Immediate Family Members

Description

Division II establishes a new criminal offense for threatening a member of the General Assembly, a judicial officer, or an immediate family member of a member of the General Assembly or judicial officer. The Division prohibits a person from threatening a member of the General Assembly, a judicial officer, or an immediate family member of such officials with the intent to place an individual in fear of serious injury, prevent or interrupt the official's ability to carry out official duties, or retaliate against an official for the performance of official duties during the official's term of service. The penalty for this offense is a Class C felony.

Background

Under Iowa Code sections [708.3A\(1\)](#) and [708.3A\(2\)](#), convictions of similar conduct involving protected classes of persons results in a Class C felony. The penalty for a person convicted of a Class C felony under Iowa Code section [902.9](#) is confinement for up to 10 years and a fine of at least \$1,370 but not more than \$13,660. In FY 2025, there were 29 convictions under Iowa Code sections [708.3A\(1\)](#) and [708.3A\(2\)](#), which result in a Class C felony.

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

Division II creates a new offense. The correctional impact cannot be determined because the number of new convictions under the Bill is unknown. **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 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
C Felony Persons	89.1%	39.1	\$23.07	30.1%	42.8	\$8.00	\$16.35	\$50.00	27.2	\$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

Division II creates a new offense for threatening a member of the General Assembly, a judicial officer, or an immediate family member of such officials, and, as a result, existing data cannot be used to estimate the minority impact of 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 for Division II cannot be determined because the number of new convictions is unknown. The average State cost per Class C felony is between \$15,000 and \$25,200. This 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.

Division III — Malicious Sharing of Personal Information

Description

Division III creates a new criminal offense of malicious sharing of personal information of a member of the General Assembly, a judicial officer, or an immediate family member of such officials. Personal information is defined as a personal physical address, personal phone number, or physical location. The Division prohibits a person from sharing personal information with the intent to cause harm, place the individual in fear of serious harm, or prevent or interrupt the official's ability to carry out official duties. The penalty for this offense is a serious misdemeanor.

Background

A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement of no more than one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not to exceed \$2,560.

Assumptions

- Admissions are a count of individuals newly admitted to the DOC for supervision during a selected time period, based on the offense of malicious sharing of personal information of a judicial officer or an immediate family member of a judicial officer.
- The following will not change over the projection period: charge, conviction, and sentencing patterns and trends; prisoner 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 DOC for supervision during a selected time period, based on the most serious offense committed.

Correctional Impact

Division III creates a new offense. The correctional impact cannot be determined because the number of new convictions under the Bill is unknown. **Figure 2** shows estimates for sentencing to State prison, parole, probation, or CBC residential facilities; LOS in months under those supervisions; and supervision marginal costs per day for a serious misdemeanor.

Figure 2 — 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 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

Division III creates a new offense of malicious sharing of personal information of a member of the General Assembly, a judicial officer, or an immediate family member of such officials, and, as a result, existing data cannot be used to estimate the minority impact of 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 for Division III cannot be determined because the number of new 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. The costs would be incurred across multiple fiscal years for prison and parole supervision.

Division IV — Threats Including to Public Officials

Description

Division IV adds the communication of a true threat including an intent to cause bodily injury to a public official, if the official learns of the threat within a year, to the definition of harassment.

Background

Under current law, a person commits harassment when, with the intent of intimidating, annoying, or to alarm another person, the person does certain prohibited acts, such as threatening bodily injury, communicating in a harassing way, or reporting false information to the police. Iowa Code section [708.7](#) categorizes harassment into three degrees. The first degree is punishable as an aggravated misdemeanor, the second is punishable as a serious misdemeanor, and the third is punishable as a simple misdemeanor. The harassment statute covers threats to bodily injury as a crime in the second degree and threats of forcible felony as a crime in the first degree, but this Division specifically directs that threats against public officials are harassment.

A simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than 30 days and a fine of at least \$105 but not to exceed \$855. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not to exceed \$2,560. An aggravated misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than two years and a fine of at least \$855 but not to exceed \$8,540. In FY 2025, there were 2,065 convictions under Iowa Code chapter [708](#) for harassment, of which 274 were for harassment in the second degree and 767 were for harassment in the first degree.

Assumptions

- The following will not change over the projection period: charge, conviction, and sentencing patterns and trends; prisoner 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 DOC for supervision during a selected time period, based on the most serious offense committed.

Correctional Impact

Division IV expands the crime of harassment. A correctional impact cannot be determined because the number of new convictions is unknown. **Figure 3** shows estimates for sentencing to State prison, parole, probation, or CBC residential facilities; LOS in months under those supervisions; and supervision marginal costs per day for a serious misdemeanor and an aggravated misdemeanor.

Figure 3 — 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
Aggravated Misdemeanor Persons	45.4%	9.8	\$23.07	62.1%	27.6	\$8.00	\$16.35	\$50.00	9.4	\$8.00

Refer to the 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

Division IV expands the crime of harassment, and, as a result, existing data cannot be used to estimate the minority impact. 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 for Division IV cannot be determined because the number of new convictions is unknown. **Figure 4** shows the average State cost per relevant offense. This 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 4 — Average State Cost Per Offense

Offense Class	Average Cost
Simple Misdemeanor	\$30 to \$420
Serious Misdemeanor	\$350 to \$6,200
Aggravated Misdemeanor	\$8,300 to \$12,200

Sources

Department of Corrections

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

/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.
