



# Fiscal Note

## Fiscal Services Division



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[HF 2629](#) – Unlawful Squatting, Criminal Offense (LSB2111HV)  
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Fiscal Note Version – New

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### Description

[House File 2629](#) establishes the criminal offense of unlawful squatting. Under the Bill, a person commits unlawful squatting if all of the following circumstances apply:

- The person knowingly enters the premises of another person and resides on the premises of the other person for any period of time without lawful authority in entering and residing on the premises, and cannot produce any document authorizing the person's presence;
- The premises the person enters upon is not open to the public at the time of entry;
- The owner of the premises has directed the person entering upon the premises to leave the premises or has contacted law enforcement to make a report of unlawful squatting;
- No pending litigation exists between the owner of the premises and the person entering upon the premises.

The Bill provides that a law enforcement agency cannot accept a report of unlawful squatting unless the report is made by an owner of the premises or by an authorized representative of the owner. A law enforcement officer acting in good faith in response to a report of a violation of this section is immune from criminal and civil liability.

The Bill provides that unlawful squatting is a serious misdemeanor. A second offense of unlawful squatting is an aggravated misdemeanor. A third offense of unlawful squatting is a Class D felony. A person who provides a false document as justification for the person's presence on the premises commits a Class D felony.

The Bill provides a private cause of action for a person aggrieved by a violation of the Bill and entitles that individual to recover damages, including without limitation restitution, and reasonable attorney fees.

### Background

A serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for up to one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560. 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.

### 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 2629 creates a new criminal offense, and the correctional impact cannot be estimated due to a lack of existing conviction data. **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, aggravated misdemeanor, and Class D 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 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Serious Misdemeanor                | 2.3%                            | 7.3                                      | \$23.07                      | 44.8%                        | 21.0                               | \$8.00                     | \$16.35                   | \$50.00                    | N/A                             | \$8.00                       |
| 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                       |

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 2629 creates a new criminal offense. As a result, the Department of Management (DOM) Division of Data, Planning, and Improvement (DPI) cannot use existing data 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 of the Bill cannot be determined because the number of convictions cannot be estimated. **Figure 2** shows the average State cost per relevant offense. 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 State Cost Per Offense**

| Offense Class          | Average Cost         |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Serious Misdemeanor    | \$350 to \$6,200     |
| Aggravated Misdemeanor | \$8,300 to \$12,200  |
| Class D Felony         | \$13,000 to \$18,100 |

**Sources**

Department of Corrections

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

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/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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