



Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



[HF 2751](#) – Active Emergency Scenes, Bystander Distance (LSB6187HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[House File 2751](#) creates a new criminal offense of obstructing a first responder after warning. A first responder includes a law enforcement officer, probation or parole officer, firefighter, or emergency medical care provider. The Bill prohibits a person from knowingly and willfully approaching or remaining within 25 feet of a first responder after receiving a verbal warning not to approach when the person intends to impede or interfere with the first responder’s duties, threaten the first responder with physical harm, or harass the first responder. 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

- 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 2751 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 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 2751 creates a new offense 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 House File 2751 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.

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.
