



Fiscal Note

Fiscal Services Division



[HF 2360](#) – Child Endangerment, Minors (LSB5685HV.1)

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Fiscal Note Version – Final Action

Description

[House File 2360](#) relates to child endangerment. The Bill adds a new definition of “child” to mean any person under 18 years of age and removes references to “minors” under the age of 18 with a mental or physical disability. Under the Bill, any person under age 18 is considered a child regardless of their mental or physical abilities under Iowa Code section [726.6](#) for child endangerment.

Background

Under current law, a person who is the parent, guardian, or person having custody or control over a child or a minor under the age of 18 with a mental or physical disability, or a person who is a member of the household in which a child or such a minor resides, commits child endangerment when the person performs any of the actions described in Iowa Code section 726.6.

Penalties under Iowa Code section 726.6 range from an aggravated misdemeanor to a Class B felony. 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. A Class B felony is punishable by confinement for up to 25 years and a fine of at least \$5,000 but not more than \$100,000.

In FY 2025, there were 1,202 convictions involving 891 individuals under Iowa Code section 726.6. In FY 2025, there were 55 people admitted to prison, 503 admitted to probation, and 14 admitted to parole.

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 additional 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 an aggravated misdemeanor, Class D felony, Class C felony, and Class B 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 Persons | 45.4% | 9.8 | \$23.07 | 62.1% | 27.6 | \$8.00 | \$16.35 | \$50.00 | 9.4 | \$8.00 |
| D Felony Persons | 79.7% | 18.1 | \$23.07 | 57.6% | 40.0 | \$8.00 | \$16.35 | \$50.00 | 16.8 | \$8.00 |
| C Felony Persons | 89.1% | 39.1 | \$23.07 | 30.1% | 42.8 | \$8.00 | \$16.35 | \$50.00 | 27.2 | \$8.00 |
| B Felony Persons | 96.6% | 104.7 | \$23.07 | 9.2% | 20.9 | \$8.00 | \$16.35 | \$50.00 | 26.8 | \$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. However, the Bill may disproportionately impact Black individuals if trends remain constant. Of the 891 individuals convicted under Iowa Code section 726.6 in FY 2025, 72.3% of offenders were White, 18.2% were Black, and 9.5% were other races. Iowa’s population is 83.2% White, 4.2% Black, and 12.6% other races. 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 additional 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 |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Aggravated Misdemeanor | \$8,300 to \$12,200 |
| Class D Felony | \$13,000 to \$18,100 |
| Class C Felony | \$15,000 to \$25,200 |
| Class B Felony | \$18,400 to \$39,600 |

