

FEB 11 2000

JUDICIARY

HOUSE FILE 2224  
BY HEATON and MARTIN

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to internet communications constituting the crime  
2 of harassment.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2224

1 Section 1. Section 708.7, subsection 1, paragraph a,  
2 subparagraph (1), Code 1999, is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) Communicates with another by telephone, telegraph, or  
4 writing, or via the internet without legitimate purpose and in  
5 a manner likely to cause the other person annoyance or harm.

6 EXPLANATION

7 This bill amends Code section 708.7, relating to the crime  
8 of harassment, to include communications made via the  
9 internet.

10 Harassment varies by degree, according to the type of  
11 threat communicated.

12 A person commits harassment in the first degree when the  
13 person commits harassment involving a threat to commit a  
14 forcible felony, or commits harassment and has previously been  
15 convicted of harassment three or more times under Code section  
16 708.7 or any similar statute during the preceding 10 years.  
17 Harassment in the first degree is an aggravated misdemeanor.  
18 An aggravated misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no  
19 more than two years and a fine of at least \$500, but not more  
20 than \$5,000.

21 A person commits harassment in the second degree when the  
22 person commits harassment involving a threat to commit bodily  
23 injury, or commits harassment and has previously been  
24 convicted of harassment two times under Code section 708.7 or  
25 any similar statute during the preceding 10 years. Harassment  
26 in the second degree is a serious misdemeanor. A serious  
27 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than one  
28 year and a fine of at least \$250, but not more than \$1,500.

29 Any other act of harassment is harassment in the third  
30 degree. Harassment in the third degree is a simple  
31 misdemeanor. A simple misdemeanor is punishable by  
32 confinement for no more than 30 days or a fine of at least \$50  
33 but not more than \$500, or by both.

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