

FEB 15 2000

JUDICIARY

HOUSE FILE 2271
BY FALCK and BRUNKHORST

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the definition of the crime of harassment.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2271

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 other form of electronic communication, or in writing without
5 legitimate purpose and in a manner likely to cause the other
6 person annoyance or harm.

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill changes the definition of the crime of
9 harassment. The bill provides that a person who communicates
10 with another by any form of electronic communication without a
11 legitimate purpose, commits harassment if the communication is
12 likely to cause annoyance or harm to the other person. Under
13 existing law, a person commits harassment if the person
14 communicates with another by telephone, telegraph, or writing
15 without a legitimate purpose and in a manner likely to cause
16 annoyance or harm.

17 A person who commits harassment that involves a threat to
18 commit a forcible felony or if the person has three or more
19 prior convictions of harassment commits an aggravated
20 misdemeanor. A person who commits harassment that involves a
21 threat to commit bodily injury or who has two prior
22 convictions of harassment commits a serious misdemeanor. A
23 person who commits any other type of harassment commits a
24 simple misdemeanor.

25 A simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no
26 more than 30 days or a fine of at least \$50 but not more than
27 \$500 or by both fine and imprisonment. A serious misdemeanor
28 is punishable by confinement for no more than one year and a
29 fine of at least \$250 but not more than \$1,500. An aggravated
30 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than two
31 years and a fine of at least \$500 but not more than \$5,000.

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