

FILED FEB 14 2000

SENATE FILE
BY REHBERG

2154

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

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to harassment via electronic communications and
2 making penalties applicable.

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

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SF 2154 JUDICIARY

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

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill amends Code section 708.7 to make harassment via
9 electronic communication a crime.

10 Harassment varies by degree according to the type of threat
11 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 this Code
16 section 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 convicted
24 of harassment two times under this Code section or any similar
25 statute during the preceding 10 years. Harassment in the
26 second degree is a serious misdemeanor. A serious misdemeanor
27 is punishable by confinement for no more than one year and a
28 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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