

**Senate File 2351 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2351  
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1029)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act enhancing the penalty for certain domestic abuse assault  
2 cases and providing a penalty.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 236.12, subsection 2, Code Supplement  
2 2009, is amended by adding the following new paragraphs:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *e.* Except as otherwise provided in  
4 subsection 3, a peace officer shall, with or without a warrant,  
5 arrest a person under section 708.2A, subsection 2, paragraph  
6 "d", if, upon investigation, including a reasonable inquiry of  
7 the alleged victim and other witnesses, if any, the officer has  
8 probable cause to believe that a domestic abuse assault has  
9 been committed by knowingly impeding the normal breathing or  
10 circulation of the blood of another by applying pressure to the  
11 throat or neck of the other person or by obstructing the nose  
12 or mouth of the other person.

13 NEW PARAGRAPH. *f.* Except as otherwise provided in  
14 subsection 3, a peace officer shall, with or without a warrant,  
15 arrest a person under section 708.2A, subsection 4A, if,  
16 upon investigation, including a reasonable inquiry of the  
17 alleged victim and other witnesses, if any, the officer has  
18 probable cause to believe that a domestic abuse assault has  
19 been committed by knowingly impeding the normal breathing or  
20 circulation of the blood of another by applying pressure to the  
21 throat or neck of the other person or by obstructing the nose  
22 or mouth of the other person and causes bodily injury.

23 Sec. 2. Section 236.12, subsection 3, Code Supplement 2009,  
24 is amended to read as follows:

25 3. As described in subsection 2, paragraph "b", "c",  
26 ~~or~~ "d", "e", or "f", the peace officer shall arrest the person  
27 whom the peace officer believes to be the primary physical  
28 aggressor. The duty of the officer to arrest extends only  
29 to those persons involved who are believed to have committed  
30 an assault. Persons acting with justification, as defined  
31 in section 704.3, are not subject to mandatory arrest. In  
32 identifying the primary physical aggressor, a peace officer  
33 shall consider the need to protect victims of domestic abuse,  
34 the relative degree of injury or fear inflicted on the persons  
35 involved, and any history of domestic abuse between the persons

1 involved. A peace officer's identification of the primary  
2 physical aggressor shall not be based on the consent of the  
3 victim to any subsequent prosecution or on the relationship of  
4 the persons involved in the incident, and shall not be based  
5 solely upon the absence of visible indications of injury or  
6 impairment.

7 Sec. 3. Section 708.2A, subsection 2, Code 2009, is amended  
8 by adding the following new paragraph:

9 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* An aggravated misdemeanor, if the  
10 domestic abuse assault is committed by knowingly impeding the  
11 normal breathing or circulation of the blood of another by  
12 applying pressure to the throat or neck of the other person or  
13 by obstructing the nose or mouth of the other person.

14 Sec. 4. Section 702.11, subsection 2, Code 2009, is amended  
15 by adding the following new paragraph:

16 NEW PARAGRAPH. *Oa.* Domestic abuse assault in violation of  
17 section 708.2A, subsection 4A.

18 Sec. 5. Section 708.2A, Code 2009, is amended by adding the  
19 following new subsection:

20 NEW SUBSECTION. 4A. For a domestic abuse assault committed  
21 by knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of  
22 the blood of another by applying pressure to the throat or neck  
23 of the other person or by obstructing the nose or mouth of the  
24 other person, and causing bodily injury, the person commits a  
25 class "D" felony.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill enhances the penalty for certain domestic abuse  
28 assault cases.

29 The bill provides that a person commits an aggravated  
30 misdemeanor if the person commits domestic abuse assault by  
31 knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the  
32 blood of another by applying pressure to the throat or neck of  
33 the other person, or by obstructing the nose or mouth of the  
34 other person. If such a domestic abuse assault causes bodily  
35 injury the person commits a class "D" felony.

1 The bill also provides that a peace officer shall arrest  
2 the person performing acts which violate the bill and whom the  
3 peace officer believes to be the primary physical aggressor  
4 just as in other domestic abuse assault situations.

5 The offense classified as a class "D" felony under the bill  
6 is exempted from the definition of a forcible felony. An  
7 offense exempted from the definition of a forcible felony,  
8 allows a person convicted of such an offense to be eligible for  
9 a suspended or deferred sentence, or a deferred judgment.

10 An aggravated misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for  
11 no more than two years and a fine of at least \$625 but not more  
12 than \$6,250.

13 A class "D" felony is punishable by confinement for no more  
14 than five years and a fine of at least \$750 but not more than  
15 \$7,500.