

House File 222 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 222
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE
GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 12)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act to prohibit political telephone calls during the
2 nighttime hours and making penalties applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 68A.507 Restrictions on telephone
2 calls made for campaign purposes.

3 1. A person shall not make a telephone call intended
4 to urge the recipient to expressly advocate, as defined in
5 section 68A.102, subsection 14, paragraph "b", the election
6 or defeat of a candidate or the passage or defeat of a ballot
7 issue beginning at ten p.m. and ending at eight a.m., central
8 standard time or central daylight saving time, as appropriate,
9 the next day.

10 2. "*Telephone call*" means a call made using or received on
11 a telecommunications service or voice over internet protocol
12 service.

13 3. A person who violates this section is subject to sections
14 68A.701 and 68B.32D.

15 EXPLANATION

16 This bill would prohibit telephone calls intended to urge
17 the recipient to expressly advocate the election or defeat of a
18 candidate or the passage or defeat of a ballot issue between
19 the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.

20 As provided in Code section 68A.701, a willful violation
21 of any provision of the campaign finance chapter is a serious
22 misdemeanor punishable by confinement for up to one year and
23 a fine of at least \$315 but not more than \$1,875. A variety
24 of civil remedies are also available in Code section 68B.32D
25 for a violation of Code chapter 68A or rules of the ethics and
26 campaign disclosure board, ranging from a reprimand to a civil
27 penalty of not more than \$2,000.