

House File 2303 - Introduced

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BY UPMEYER, HINSON, SALMON,  
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WILLS, PAUSTIAN, WORTHAN,  
KERR, FISHER, THOMPSON,  
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CARLSON, HEIN, JONES,  
SORENSEN, WINDSCHITL,  
PRICHARD, SEXTON, FRY,  
HOLT, GRASSLEY, SHIPLEY,  
OSMUNDSON, BLOOMINGDALE,  
LANDON, BOSSMAN, HAGENOW,  
GERHOLD, MOORE, DONAHUE,  
McKEAN, KAUFMANN, STECKMAN,  
HITE, MAXWELL, BAXTER,  
GUSTAFSON, DOLECHECK,  
LOHSE, and BERGAN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring consideration of anti-Semitism by governmental  
2 entities when investigating possible discriminatory acts.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 216F.1 **Legislative findings.**

2 The general assembly finds and declares the following:

3 1. Anti-Semitism, and harassment on the basis of actual  
4 or perceived national origin, shared ancestry, or ethnic  
5 characteristics with a religious group, remains a persistent,  
6 pervasive, and disturbing problem in contemporary American  
7 society.

8 2. Data shows that Jews are among the most likely of all  
9 minority groups to be victimized by incidents of hate, and such  
10 incidents are increasing at an alarming rate.

11 3. Campus anti-Semitism is systemic, broad, and deep, with  
12 recent studies showing that the number of Jewish students  
13 experiencing anti-Semitism on campuses across the United States  
14 had spiked sharply.

15 4. State officials and institutions, including educational  
16 institutions, have a responsibility to protect citizens from  
17 acts of hate and bigotry motivated by discriminatory animus,  
18 including anti-Semitism, and must be given the tools to do so.

19 5. Valid monitoring, informed analysis and investigation,  
20 and effective policymaking all require uniform definitions.

21 6. While there is no one exclusive definition of  
22 anti-Semitism, given the many forms anti-Semitism may take, for  
23 the purposes of this chapter, the specifically conduct-based  
24 definition of anti-Semitism adopted by the international  
25 holocaust remembrance alliance, which consists of over thirty  
26 nations, and subsequently used by the United States department  
27 of state and the governments of numerous other nations,  
28 has been an essential definitional tool used to determine  
29 contemporary manifestations of anti-Semitism, and includes  
30 useful examples of discriminatory anti-Israel acts that cross  
31 the line into anti-Semitism.

32 7. Awareness of this conduct-based definition of  
33 anti-Semitism, although it should not be taken as an exclusive  
34 definition, will increase understanding of the parameters of  
35 contemporary anti-Jewish crime and discrimination in certain



1 contemporary examples of anti-Semitism accompanying such  
2 definition. "Anti-Semitism" does not include criticism of  
3 Israel similar to that leveled against any other country.  
4 The IHRA definition provides: "Antisemitism is a certain  
5 perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward  
6 Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism  
7 are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or  
8 their property, toward Jewish community institutions and  
9 religious facilities". The IHRA definition includes 11  
10 contemporary examples of anti-Semitism, including calling for,  
11 aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the  
12 name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.  
13 The bill shall not be construed to diminish or infringe upon  
14 any right protected under the Constitution of the State of Iowa  
15 or the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States  
16 and shall not be construed to conflict with local, state, or  
17 federal discrimination laws.