

House File 51 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 51

BY SALMON

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the carrying, transportation, or possession
2 of a firearm in a building that is a place of religious
3 worship located on nonpublic school property.

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

1 Section 1. Section 724.4B, subsection 2, Code 2019, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* A person attending a worship service or
4 religious ceremony in a building that is a place of religious
5 worship located on nonpublic school property if that person
6 possesses a valid professional or nonprofessional permit to
7 carry weapons issued pursuant to this chapter. As used in
8 this paragraph, "*building that is a place of religious worship*"
9 includes a church, chapel, meetinghouse, synagogue, temple,
10 longhouse, mosque, or other building that is regularly used,
11 and clearly identifiable, as a place of religious worship.

12 EXPLANATION

13 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
14 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

15 Currently, Code section 724.4B(1) prohibits the carrying,
16 transportation, or possession of a firearm of any kind, whether
17 concealed or not, on the grounds of a public or nonpublic
18 school. A person who violates Code section 724.4B commits
19 a class "D" felony. A class "D" felony is punishable by
20 confinement for no more than five years and a fine of at least
21 \$750 but not more than \$7,500. Code section 724.4B(2) sets
22 out various exceptions, which include certain persons listed
23 under Code section 724.4(4); a person who has been specifically
24 authorized by the school to go armed with, carry, or transport
25 a firearm on the school grounds; and a licensee under Code
26 chapter 80A (private investigative agencies and security
27 agents) or an employee of such a licensee, while the licensee
28 or employee is engaged in the performance of duties, and if
29 the licensee or employee possesses a valid professional or
30 nonprofessional permit to carry weapons.

31 This bill amends Code section 724.4B(2) by adding another
32 exception to allow for a person to carry, transport, or possess
33 a firearm while attending a worship service or religious
34 ceremony in a building that is a place of religious worship
35 located on nonpublic school property if that person has a valid

1 professional or nonprofessional permit to carry weapons. The
2 bill defines "building that is a place of religious worship"
3 to include a church, chapel, meetinghouse, synagogue, temple,
4 longhouse, mosque, or other building that is regularly used,
5 and clearly identifiable, as a place of religious worship.