

House File 198 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 198

BY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 63)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to assault involving a laser emitting a visible
2 light beam and making penalties applicable.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 708.1, subsection 2, Code 2021, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *d.* (1) Intentionally points a laser
4 emitting a visible light beam at another person with the intent
5 to cause pain or injury to another. For purposes of this
6 paragraph, "laser" means a device that emits a visible light
7 beam amplified by the stimulated emission of radiation and any
8 light which simulates the appearance of a laser.

9 (2) This paragraph does not apply to any of the following:

10 (a) A law enforcement officer who uses a laser in
11 discharging or attempting to discharge the officer's official
12 duties.

13 (b) A health care professional who uses a laser in providing
14 services within the scope of practice of that professional or
15 any other person who is licensed or authorized by law to use a
16 laser or who uses a laser in the performance of the person's
17 official duties.

18 (c) A person who uses a laser to play laser tag, paintball,
19 and other similar games using light-emitting diode technology.

20 EXPLANATION

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

23 This bill relates to assault involving a laser emitting a
24 visible light beam.

25 The bill adds intentionally pointing a laser emitting
26 a visible light beam at another person with the intent to
27 cause pain or injury to another to the definition of assault
28 in Code section 708.1. This definition does not apply to
29 a law enforcement officer who uses a laser in discharging
30 or attempting to discharge the officer's official duties,
31 to a health care professional who uses a laser in providing
32 services, or to any other person who is licensed or authorized
33 by law to use a laser or uses it in the performance of
34 the person's official duties, or to a person who uses a
35 laser to play tag, paintball, and other similar games using

1 light-emitting diode technology.

2 A person who commits an assault is guilty of a simple
3 misdemeanor, aggravated misdemeanor, serious misdemeanor,
4 class "D" felony, or a class "C" felony depending upon the
5 circumstances of the offense.