

House File 76 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 76

BY FISHER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to interference with political signs and
2 providing penalties.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 716.13 Interference with a
2 political sign.

3 1. A person who takes, possesses, damages, or moves a
4 political sign without authorization from the owner and with
5 the intent to prevent, substantially alter, or substantially
6 obscure the communication of the political sign commits
7 interference with a political sign. For the purposes of this
8 section, "political sign" means a sign that includes express
9 advocacy as defined in section 68A.102.

10 2. a. For a first offense, a person who commits
11 interference with a political sign is guilty of a simple
12 misdemeanor.

13 b. For a second or subsequent offense, a person who commits
14 interference with a political sign is guilty of a serious
15 misdemeanor.

16 EXPLANATION

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

19 This bill relates to interference with political signs. The
20 bill creates the offense of "interference with a political
21 sign", defined as the taking, possessing, damaging, or moving
22 of a political sign without the authorization of the owner
23 and with the intent to prevent, substantially alter, or
24 substantially obscure the communication of the political sign.
25 The bill defines "political sign" as a sign that includes
26 express advocacy as defined in Code chapter 68A.

27 For a first offense, a person who commits interference with
28 a political sign is guilty of a simple misdemeanor. A simple
29 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than 30
30 days and a fine of at least \$105 but not more than \$855. For a
31 second or subsequent offense, a person who commits interference
32 with a political sign is guilty of a serious misdemeanor. A
33 serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more
34 than one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not more than
35 \$2,560.