

House Study Bill 538 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON JUDICIARY BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON HOLT)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to antisemitism in the state of Iowa.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 216F.1 Definition.

2 For purposes of this chapter, "antisemitism" means the
3 working definition of antisemitism adopted by the international
4 holocaust remembrance alliance on May 26, 2016, and includes
5 the contemporary examples of antisemitism identified by the
6 international holocaust remembrance alliance.

7 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 216F.2 Rules of construction.

8 This chapter shall not be construed to diminish or infringe
9 upon any right protected under the first amendment to the
10 United States Constitution, or the Constitution of the State
11 of Iowa. This chapter shall not be construed to conflict with
12 local, federal, or state discrimination laws.

13 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 216F.3 Determination of discriminatory
14 acts — consideration of antisemitism.

15 1. In reviewing, investigating, or deciding whether there
16 has been a violation of any relevant policy, law, or regulation
17 prohibiting discriminatory acts, the state shall take into
18 consideration the definition of antisemitism set forth in this
19 chapter for purposes of determining whether the alleged act was
20 motivated by discriminatory antisemitic intent.

21 2. A court or other relevant authority shall apply the same
22 legal standard as applicable to like claims of discrimination
23 arising under laws of this state protecting civil rights
24 including chapter 216.

25 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 216F.4 State personal discrimination
26 training.

27 For the purposes of training of state personnel related
28 to discrimination and anti-bias training, the definition
29 of antisemitism shall be used as an educational tool to
30 familiarize staff and officials with antisemitism.

31 EXPLANATION

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

34 This bill relates to antisemitism in the state of Iowa. The
35 bill defines "antisemitism" to mean the working definition of

1 the term adopted by the international holocaust remembrance
2 alliance on May 26, 2016, and includes the contemporary
3 examples of antisemitism identified by the international
4 holocaust remembrance alliance.

5 The bill shall not be construed to diminish or infringe upon
6 any right protected under the Constitution of the State of Iowa
7 or the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States
8 and shall not be construed to conflict with local, state, or
9 federal discrimination laws.

10 The bill requires the state, when reviewing, investigating,
11 or deciding whether there has been a violation of any law,
12 rule, or policy prohibiting discriminatory acts, to take into
13 consideration the definition of antisemitism set forth in the
14 bill for purposes of determining whether an alleged act was
15 motivated by discriminatory antisemitic intent. A court or
16 other relevant authority is instructed to use the same legal
17 standard used in other civil rights discrimination proceedings.

18 The bill provides that the definition of antisemitism
19 from the bill must be used when providing discrimination and
20 anti-bias training to state personnel.