

Senate File 397 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 397

BY BOLKCOM

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to city inspections of rental properties, and
2 providing penalties.

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

1 Section 1. Section 364.17, subsection 3, Code 2021, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:
3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *c.* A city rental inspection program required
4 under paragraph "a" shall require an inspector to inspect for
5 the presence of mold. A rental property owner who has been
6 ordered to mitigate mold discovered during a rental inspection
7 who has failed to correct the violation within a reasonable
8 time, as prescribed in the applicable order, commits a simple
9 misdemeanor.

10 EXPLANATION

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

13 This bill relates to city inspections of rental properties.
14 Under current law, a city with a population of 15,000 or more
15 is required to adopt an approved housing code and enforcement
16 procedures, which must include a program for regular rental
17 inspections, rental inspections upon receipt of complaints,
18 and certification of inspected rental housing. Current law
19 authorizes a city that has adopted an approved housing code
20 to issue orders requiring violations to be corrected within
21 a reasonable time and issue citations upon the failure to
22 satisfactorily remedy a violation.

23 The bill requires a city rental inspection program to
24 require that an inspector inspect for the presence of mold.
25 Under the bill, a rental property owner who has been ordered
26 to mitigate mold discovered during a rental inspection who
27 has failed to correct the violation within a reasonable
28 time commits a simple misdemeanor. A simple misdemeanor is
29 punishable by confinement for no more than 30 days and a fine
30 of at least \$105 but not more than \$855.