

**House File 2050 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2050

BY SHIPLEY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to reports of false information regarding an  
2 alleged act of child abuse, family assessments, and making  
3 penalties applicable.

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

1 Section 1. Section 232.75, subsection 3, Code 2024, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. A person who reports or causes to be reported to the  
4 department false information regarding an alleged act of child  
5 abuse, knowing that the information is false or that the act  
6 did not occur, commits a ~~simple misdemeanor~~ class "D" felony.

7 Sec. 2. Section 232.75, Code 2024, is amended by adding the  
8 following new subsection:

9 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. If a person who commits a violation of  
10 subsection 3 is a person responsible for the care of a child,  
11 as defined in section 232.68, subsection 8, the department  
12 shall conduct a family assessment, as defined in section  
13 232.68, subsection 5, paragraph "c", concerning any child in  
14 the care of the person who knowingly made the false report of  
15 alleged child abuse.

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 reports of false information regarding  
20 an alleged act of child abuse and family assessments.

21 Under current law, a person who reports or causes to be  
22 reported to the department of health and human services  
23 (department) false information regarding an alleged act of  
24 child abuse, knowing that the information is false or that the  
25 act did not occur, commits a simple misdemeanor.

26 The bill increases the current penalty for knowingly making  
27 a false report of alleged child abuse from a simple misdemeanor  
28 to a class "D" felony. A simple misdemeanor is punishable by  
29 confinement for no more than 30 days and a fine of at least \$105  
30 but not more than \$855. A class "D" felony is punishable by  
31 confinement for no more than five years and a fine of at least  
32 \$1,025 but not more than \$10,245.

33 The bill provides that if a person convicted of reporting or  
34 causing the report of false information regarding an alleged  
35 act of child abuse, knowing that the information is false, is

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1 a person responsible for the care of a child, as defined in  
2 Code section 232.68(8), the department shall conduct a family  
3 assessment, as defined in Code section 232.68(5)(c) concerning  
4 any child in the care of the person who knowingly made a false  
5 report of alleged child abuse.