

House Study Bill 545 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to false reports to or communications with
2 public safety entities, and providing penalties.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 718.6, Code 2024, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **718.6 False reports to or communications with public safety**
4 **entities.**

5 1. A Except as provided in subsection 2, a person who
6 reports or causes to be reported false information to a fire
7 department, a law enforcement authority, or other public safety
8 entity, knowing that the information is false, or who reports
9 the alleged occurrence of a criminal act, knowing the act did
10 not occur, commits a simple misdemeanor, unless the alleged
11 criminal act reported is a serious or aggravated misdemeanor or
12 felony, in which case the person commits a serious misdemeanor.

13 2. A person who reports or causes to be reported false
14 information to a fire department, a law enforcement authority,
15 or other public safety entity, knowing that the information is
16 false, or who reports the alleged occurrence of a criminal act,
17 knowing the act did not occur, commits a class "D" felony if
18 the alleged criminal act reported is any of the following:

- 19 a. A forcible felony under section 702.11.
20 b. Intimidation with a dangerous weapon under section 708.6.
21 c. An act of terrorism under chapter 708A.
22 d. Unlawful possession of biological agents or diseases
23 under chapter 708B.
24 e. Any offense under chapter 712.

25 3. If the reported false information involves a criminal
26 act under subsection 2 and the reported false information
27 results in serious bodily injury to or the death of another
28 person, the person reporting the false information commits a
29 class "C" felony. For purposes of this subsection, a person
30 causes serious bodily injury or death when the report of false
31 information contributes to the other person's serious bodily
32 injury or death.

33 ~~2.~~ 4. A Except as provided in subsection 2, a person who
34 telephones an emergency 911 communications center, knowing
35 that the person is not reporting an emergency or otherwise

1 needing emergency information or assistance, commits a simple
2 misdemeanor.

3 ~~3.~~ 5. A Except as provided in subsection 2, a person who
4 knowingly provides false information to a law enforcement
5 officer who enters the information on a citation commits a
6 simple misdemeanor, unless the criminal act for which the
7 citation is issued is a serious or aggravated misdemeanor or
8 felony, in which case the person commits a serious misdemeanor.

9 EXPLANATION

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

12 This bill relates to false reports to or communications with
13 public safety entities.

14 Under current law, a person who reports or causes to
15 be reported false information to a fire department, a law
16 enforcement authority, or other public safety entity, knowing
17 that the information is false, commits either a simple
18 misdemeanor or a serious misdemeanor depending upon the method
19 of making the false report, or the seriousness of the falsely
20 reported criminal act.

21 The bill provides that a person who reports or causes to
22 be reported false information to a fire department, a law
23 enforcement authority, or other public safety entity, knowing
24 that the information is false, or who reports the alleged
25 occurrence of a criminal act, knowing the act did not occur,
26 commits a class "D" felony if the falsely reported criminal act
27 is any of the following: a forcible felony under Code section
28 702.11, intimidation with a dangerous weapon under Code section
29 708.6, an act of terrorism under Code chapter 708A, unlawful
30 possession of biological agents or diseases under Code chapter
31 708B, and any offense under Code chapter 712 (concerning arson,
32 explosive materials, and destructive devices). If the falsely
33 reported information involves one of the listed criminal acts
34 and the false report results in another person experiencing
35 serious bodily injury or death, the person reporting the false

1 information commits a class "C" felony. The bill provides that
2 a person causes serious bodily injury or death when the report
3 of false information contributes to the other person's serious
4 bodily injury or death.

5 A class "D" felony is punishable by confinement for no more
6 than five years and a fine of at least \$1,025 but not more than
7 \$10,245. A class "C" felony is punishable by confinement for
8 no more than 10 years and a fine of at least \$1,370 but not more
9 than \$13,660.