

**House Study Bill 635 - Introduced**

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

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the penalty for public employees and public  
2 officials taking money from a public employer.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 907.3, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
2 2024, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:  
3 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (17) The defendant was a public employee  
4 or public official at the time of the offense and the amount  
5 taken by the defendant from the public employer exceeded seven  
6 thousand five hundred dollars.

7 Sec. 2. Section 907.3, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2024,  
8 is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

9 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (10) An offense for which the defendant  
10 was a public employee or public official at the time of the  
11 offense and the amount taken by the defendant from the public  
12 employer exceeded seven thousand five hundred dollars.

13 Sec. 3. Section 907.3, subsection 3, Code 2024, is amended  
14 by adding the following new paragraph:

15 NEW PARAGRAPH. *i.* A sentence for an offense for which  
16 the defendant was a public employee or public official at the  
17 time of the offense and the amount taken by the defendant  
18 from the public employer exceeded seven thousand five  
19 hundred dollars unless the defendant establishes, by clear  
20 and convincing evidence, and the sentencing court finds and  
21 states specifically on the record, the existence of mitigating  
22 circumstances warranting a departure from the otherwise  
23 applicable mandatory term of incarceration.

24 Sec. 4. Section 907.3, Code 2024, is amended by adding the  
25 following new subsection:

26 NEW SUBSECTION. 4. For the purposes of this section:

27 *a.* "Public employee" means any individual employed by a  
28 public employer.

29 *b.* "Public employer" means the state, its boards,  
30 commissions, agencies, and departments, and its political  
31 subdivisions including school districts and other special  
32 purpose districts.

33 *c.* "Public official" means the same as defined in section  
34 68B.2.

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EXPLANATION

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

3       This bill prohibits a sentencing court from deferring  
4 the judgment or deferring the sentence of a defendant if the  
5 defendant was a public employee or public official at the time  
6 of the offense and the amount of money taken by the public  
7 employee or public official in connection with the offense  
8 exceeded \$7,500.

9       The bill prohibits a sentencing court from suspending  
10 the sentence of a defendant if the defendant was a public  
11 employee or public official at the time of the offense and  
12 the amount of money taken by the public employee or public  
13 official in connection with the offense exceeded \$7,500 unless  
14 the defendant establishes, by clear and convincing evidence,  
15 and the sentencing court finds and states specifically on  
16 the record, that mitigating circumstances exist warranting  
17 a departure from the otherwise mandatory minimum term of  
18 incarceration.

19       The bill defines "public employee" as any individual  
20 employed by a public employer, "public employer" as the state,  
21 its boards, commissions, agencies, and departments, and its  
22 political subdivisions including school districts and other  
23 special purpose districts, and "public official" as officials,  
24 local officials, and members of the general assembly (as  
25 defined in Code section 68B.2).