

Senate File 166 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 166

BY WESTRICH

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to tampering with witnesses or jurors, and
2 providing penalties.

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

1 Section 1. Section 720.4, Code 2023, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **720.4 Tampering with witnesses or jurors.**

4 A It shall be unlawful for a person who offers to offer any
5 bribe to any person who the offeror believes has been or may be
6 summoned as a witness or juror in any judicial or arbitration
7 proceeding, or any legislative hearing, ~~or who makes to make~~
8 any threats toward such person or ~~who~~ forcibly or fraudulently
9 ~~detains~~ detain or ~~restrains~~ restrain such person, with the
10 intent to improperly influence such witness or juror with
11 respect to the witness' or juror's testimony or decision in
12 such case, or to prevent such person from testifying or serving
13 in such case, or ~~who~~, in retaliation for anything lawfully done
14 by any witness or juror in any case, ~~harasses~~ to harass such
15 witness or juror~~r~~. A person who violates this section commits
16 ~~an aggravated misdemeanor~~ a class "B" felony.

17 EXPLANATION

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

20 This bill relates to tampering with witnesses or jurors, and
21 provides penalties.

22 Current law provides that a person who tampers with a witness
23 or juror commits an aggravated misdemeanor. An aggravated
24 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than two
25 years and a fine of at least \$855 but not more than \$8,540.

26 The bill provides that a person who tampers with a witness
27 or juror commits a class "B" felony. A class "B" felony is
28 punishable by confinement for no more than 25 years.