

**House File 16 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 16  
BY LOHSE

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to indigent defense and the appointment of  
2 counsel by the court.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 815.10, subsection 6, Code 2025, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 6. An attorney appointed under this section is not liable  
4 to a person represented by the attorney for damages as a  
5 result of a conviction in a criminal case unless the court  
6 determines in a postconviction proceeding or on direct appeal  
7 that the person's conviction resulted from ineffective assistance  
8 of counsel, and the ineffective assistance of counsel is the  
9 proximate cause of the damage. In juvenile or civil proceedings,  
10 an attorney appointed under this section is not liable to a  
11 person represented by the attorney for damages unless it has been  
12 determined that the attorney has provided ineffective assistance  
13 of counsel, and the ineffective assistance of counsel is the  
14 proximate cause of the damage. A noncontract attorney appointed  
15 under this section, without the consent of the attorney, who is  
16 accused of ineffective assistance of counsel shall be treated  
17 as a state employee under chapter 669, including defense and  
18 indemnification under section 669.21.

19 EXPLANATION

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

22 This bill relates to indigent defense and the appointment of  
23 counsel by the court.

24 The bill provides that a noncontract attorney appointed by the  
25 court, without the consent of the attorney, who is accused of  
26 ineffective assistance of counsel shall be treated as a state  
27 employee under Code chapter 669 (state tort claims), including  
28 defense and indemnification under Code section 669.21, which  
29 provides that the state shall defend any employee, and shall  
30 indemnify and hold harmless an employee against any claim.