

House File 244 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 244
BY HERMANSON, C. JOHNSON,
BLOOMINGDALE, GEARHART, and
LATHAM

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the offense of intentional
2 misrepresentation of an animal as a service animal or
3 service-animal-in-training.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 216C.11, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. A person commits the offense of intentional
4 misrepresentation of an animal as a service animal or a
5 service-animal-in-training if ~~all of the following elements are~~
6 ~~established:~~

7 ~~(1) For, for~~ the purpose of obtaining any of the rights
8 or privileges set forth in state or federal law, the person
9 intentionally misrepresents an animal in one's possession as
10 one's service animal or service-animal-in-training or a person
11 with a disability's service animal or service-animal-in-training
12 whom the person is assisting by controlling.

13 ~~(2) The person was previously given a written or~~
14 ~~verbal warning regarding the fact that it is illegal to~~
15 ~~intentionally misrepresent an animal as a service animal or a~~
16 ~~service-animal-in-training.~~

17 ~~(3) The person knows that the animal in question is not a~~
18 ~~service animal or a service-animal-in-training.~~

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 the offense of intentional
23 misrepresentation of an animal as a service animal or
24 service-animal-in-training. Under current law, a person commits
25 the offense of intentional misrepresentation of an animal
26 as a service animal or a service-animal-in-training if the
27 three following elements are established: (1) the person
28 intentionally misrepresents an animal in one's possession as
29 one's service animal or service-animal-in-training or a person
30 with a disability's service animal or service-animal-in-training
31 whom the person is assisting by controlling to obtain any of the
32 rights or privileges set forth in law for such animals, (2) the
33 person was previously given a written or verbal warning regarding
34 the fact that it is illegal to intentionally misrepresent an
35 animal, and (3) the person knows that the animal in question is

1 not a service animal or a service-animal-in-training. The bill
2 strikes the second and third elements.

3 A person who commits the offense of intentional
4 misrepresentation of an animal as a service animal or
5 service-animal-in-training commits a simple misdemeanor. A
6 simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than
7 30 days and a fine of at least \$105 but not more than \$855.

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