

House File 2728 - Introduced

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GEARHART, SITZMANN, JENEARY,
SMITH, BLOM, and WOOD

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to obstructing first responders, and providing
2 penalties.

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

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **719.1B Obstructing first responder**
2 **after warning.**

3 1. As used in this section:

4 a. "*First responder*" means a law enforcement officer, a
5 probation or parole officer, a fire fighter, or an emergency
6 medical care provider.

7 b. "*Harass*" means to willfully engage in a course of
8 conduct directed at a first responder that intentionally causes
9 substantial emotional distress in the first responder and serves
10 no legitimate purpose.

11 2. a. A person shall not, after receiving a verbal warning
12 not to approach from an individual the person knows or reasonably
13 should know is a first responder who is engaged in the lawful
14 performance of a legal duty, knowingly and willfully violate the
15 warning and approach or remain within twenty-five feet of the
16 first responder with the intent to do any of the following:

17 (1) Impede or interfere with the first responder's ability to
18 perform the first responder's duty.

19 (2) Threaten the first responder with physical harm.

20 (3) Harass the first responder.

21 b. A person who violates this section commits a serious
22 misdemeanor.

23 **EXPLANATION**

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

26 This bill relates to obstructing first responders.

27 The bill prohibits a person, after receiving a verbal warning
28 not to approach from an individual the person knows or reasonably
29 should know is a first responder who is engaged in the lawful
30 performance of a legal duty, from knowingly and willfully
31 violating the warning and approaching or remaining within 25
32 feet of the first responder with the intent to impede or
33 interfere with the first responder's ability to perform the first
34 responder's duty; threaten the first responder with physical
35 harm; or harass the first responder.

1 A person violating the bill commits a serious misdemeanor. A
2 serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than
3 one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560.

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