

**House File 576 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 576  
BY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 115)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act providing penalties for certain nonimmigrant visa holders  
2 attending or employed by certain institutions of higher  
3 education who express support for certain terrorist activities  
4 or organizations and including effective date provisions.  
5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be  
2 cited as the "Combatting Terrorist Sympathizers Act".

3 Sec. 2. Section 256.183, subsection 1, unnumbered paragraph  
4 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

5 "Accredited private institution" means an institution of  
6 higher learning located in Iowa which is operated privately  
7 and not controlled or administered by any state agency or  
8 any subdivision of the state and which meets the criteria in  
9 paragraphs "a" and "b" and all of the criteria in paragraphs "d"  
10 through "j" "k", except that institutions defined in paragraph  
11 "c" of this subsection are exempt from the requirements of  
12 paragraphs "a" and "b":

13 Sec. 3. Section 256.183, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended  
14 by adding the following new paragraph:

15 NEW PARAGRAPH. k. Adopts a policy for compliance with  
16 chapter 261K.

17 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **261K.1 Definitions.**

18 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise  
19 requires:

20 1. "Institution of higher education" means an institution of  
21 higher learning governed by the state board of regents or an  
22 accredited private institution as defined in section 256.183.

23 2. "Nonimmigrant visa" includes but is not limited to visa  
24 categories F-1, M-1, and J-1.

25 3. "Terrorist activity" and "terrorist organization" mean the  
26 same as defined in 8 U.S.C. §1182.

27 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. **261K.2 Policy on nonimmigrant visa  
28 holders — support of terrorist activities or organizations —  
29 suspension, expulsion, or termination of employment.**

30 Each institution of higher education shall adopt and enforce a  
31 policy that does all of the following:

32 1. Prohibits a student, faculty member, and staff member, if  
33 the individual holds a nonimmigrant visa, from publicly espousing  
34 terrorist activity related to an ongoing conflict or, at any  
35 time or place, persuading others to endorse or espouse terrorist

1 activity related to an ongoing conflict or to support a terrorist  
2 organization unless it is the policy or practice of the United  
3 States to support such activity or organization.

4 2. Upon suspecting or receiving a credible allegation that an  
5 individual has violated the policy, provides for an investigation  
6 of the individual by the institution and, if warranted by the  
7 factual results of the investigation, enforcement of the policy  
8 against the individual.

9 3. Upon a first finding of guilt of or responsibility for a  
10 violation of subsection 1 by a preponderance of the evidence,  
11 provides for the suspension of a student or termination of a  
12 faculty or staff member's employment for at least one year.

13 4. Upon a second finding of guilt of or responsibility for  
14 a violation of subsection 1 by a preponderance of the evidence,  
15 provides for the expulsion of a student or termination of a  
16 faculty or staff member's employment permanently.

17 5. Immediately upon suspending or expelling a student or  
18 terminating a faculty or staff member's employment under  
19 subsection 3 or 4, requires the institution to update the  
20 individual's record in the federal department of homeland  
21 security's student exchange visitor information system or a  
22 successor system to show that the individual is no longer  
23 enrolled as a full-time student of the institution or employed  
24 by the institution.

25 6. Prohibits a student, faculty member, or staff member  
26 from transferring to, enrolling at, or becoming employed by  
27 the institution if the individual has been suspended, expelled,  
28 or terminated from employment by another institution of higher  
29 education under subsection 4.

30 **Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 261K.3 Enforcement against**  
31 **institutions — attorney general — ineligibility for tuition**  
32 **grants.**

33 1. The attorney general shall enforce this chapter and  
34 may investigate suspected violations of this chapter by an  
35 institution of higher education.

1 2. The attorney general may compel production of documents  
2 and other evidence from an institution suspected of violating  
3 this chapter, including all education and employment records and  
4 other relevant records.

5 3. a. The attorney general may bring an action against an  
6 institution of higher education for a writ of mandamus to compel  
7 the institution to comply with this chapter.

8 b. Upon a determination by the court that an institution  
9 of higher education that is not a regents institution has  
10 violated this chapter, the institution shall be ineligible to  
11 receive funds from the state for tuition grants under chapter  
12 256, subchapter VII, part 4, subpart B, for the academic year  
13 beginning after the date of the finding. The attorney general  
14 shall petition the court to make such a determination. The court  
15 shall submit a copy of the determination to the college student  
16 aid commission.

17 Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect December 31,  
18 2025.

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 requires an institution of higher education to adopt  
23 and enforce a policy relating to certain expressions of support  
24 for terrorist activities or organizations, as defined under  
25 federal law, by nonimmigrant visa holders attending or working  
26 at the institution. The bill defines "institution of higher  
27 education" as an institution of higher learning governed by the  
28 state board of regents or an accredited private institution for  
29 purposes of tuition grants under Code chapter 256, subchapter  
30 VII, part 4, subpart B.

31 The policy shall prohibit a student, faculty member, and  
32 staff member, if the individual holds a nonimmigrant visa, from  
33 publicly espousing terrorist activity related to an ongoing  
34 conflict or, at any time or place, persuading others to endorse  
35 or espouse terrorist activity related to an ongoing conflict

1 or to support a terrorist organization unless it is the policy  
2 or practice of the United States to support such activity or  
3 organization.

4 Upon suspecting or receiving a credible allegation of a  
5 violation by an individual, the policy shall provide for  
6 an investigation of the individual by the institution and,  
7 if warranted by the factual results of the investigation,  
8 enforcement of the policy against the individual.

9 Upon a first finding of guilt of or responsibility for a  
10 violation by a preponderance of the evidence, the policy shall  
11 provide for the suspension of a student or termination of a  
12 faculty or staff member's employment for at least one year.  
13 Upon a second such finding, the policy shall provide for the  
14 expulsion of a student or termination of a faculty or staff  
15 member's employment permanently.

16 Immediately upon suspending or expelling a student or  
17 terminating a faculty or staff member's employment in this  
18 manner, the policy shall require the institution to update  
19 the individual's record in the federal department of homeland  
20 security's student exchange visitor information system or a  
21 successor system to show that the individual is no longer  
22 enrolled as a full-time student of the institution or employed  
23 by the institution.

24 The policy must prohibit a student, faculty member, or  
25 staff member from transferring to, enrolling at, or becoming  
26 employed by the institution if the individual has been suspended,  
27 expelled, or terminated from employment by another institution of  
28 higher education as provided under the bill.

29 The bill shall be enforced by the attorney general, who may  
30 investigate suspected violations by an institution of higher  
31 education. The attorney general may compel production of  
32 documents and other evidence from an institution suspected of a  
33 violation. The attorney general may bring an action against an  
34 institution for a writ of mandamus to compel the institution to  
35 comply.

1     Upon a determination by the court that an institution that  
2 is not a regents institution has committed a violation, the  
3 institution shall be ineligible to receive funds from the state  
4 for tuition grants under Code chapter 256, subchapter VII, part  
5 4, subpart B, for the academic year beginning after the date of  
6 the finding.

7     The bill takes effect December 31, 2025.

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