

**Senate File 2163 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2163

BY CAMPBELL

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to false accusations of criminal acts, and  
2 providing penalties.

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

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1 Section 1. Section 718.6, subsections 2 and 3, Code 2026, are  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. a. A person who reports or causes to be reported false  
4 information to a fire department, a law enforcement authority,  
5 or other public safety entity, knowing that the information is  
6 false, or who reports the alleged occurrence of a criminal act,  
7 knowing the act did not occur, commits a class "D" felony if the  
8 alleged criminal act reported is any of the following:

9 ~~a.~~ (1) A forcible felony under section 702.11.

10 ~~b.~~ (2) Intimidation with a dangerous weapon under section  
11 708.6.

12 ~~c.~~ (3) An act of terrorism under chapter 708A.

13 ~~d.~~ (4) Unlawful possession of biological agents or diseases  
14 under chapter 708B.

15 ~~e.~~ (5) Any offense under chapter 712.

16 b. Any person who continues to make allegations of an alleged  
17 occurrence of a criminal act after the allegations are proven to  
18 be false may be charged with malicious prosecution under section  
19 720.6.

20 3. If the reported false information involves a criminal  
21 act under subsection 2, paragraph "a", and the reported false  
22 information results in serious bodily injury to or the death  
23 of another person, the person reporting the false information  
24 commits a class "C" felony. For purposes of this subsection,  
25 a person causes serious bodily injury or death when the report  
26 of false information contributes to the other person's serious  
27 bodily injury or death.

28 Sec. 2. Section 720.6, Code 2026, is amended to read as  
29 follows:

30 **720.6 Malicious prosecution.**

31 A person who causes or attempts to cause another to be  
32 indicted or prosecuted for any public offense, having no  
33 reasonable grounds for believing that the person committed the  
34 offense commits ~~a serious~~ an aggravated misdemeanor.

35 EXPLANATION

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

3       This bill relates to false accusations of criminal acts.

4       Current law provides that a person who reports the alleged  
5 occurrence of a criminal act, knowing the act did not occur,  
6 commits a serious misdemeanor or a class "D" felony depending on  
7 the nature of the alleged offense.

8       The bill provides that any person who continues to make  
9 allegations of an alleged occurrence of a criminal act after the  
10 allegations are proven to be false may be charged with malicious  
11 prosecution under Code section 720.6, which the bill changes  
12 from a serious misdemeanor to an aggravated misdemeanor. An  
13 aggravated misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more  
14 than two years and a fine of at least \$855 but not more than  
15 \$8,540.

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