

**Senate File 337 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 337  
BY PETERSEN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to a hope card program for plaintiffs granted  
2 certain orders in a domestic abuse proceeding, and providing  
3 penalties.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **236.21 Hope card program.**

2 1. For purposes of this section, "order" means either of the  
3 following:

4 a. A temporary order entered pursuant to section 236.4 to  
5 protect a plaintiff from domestic abuse prior to a hearing.

6 b. A protective order entered pursuant to section 236.5 that  
7 requires a defendant to cease domestic abuse of a plaintiff.

8 2. The attorney general, in consultation with district clerks  
9 of court, shall develop and implement a hope card program to  
10 provide for the issuance of a hope card to each person who has  
11 been granted an order.

12 3. A plaintiff who is granted an order may request a hope  
13 card from the clerk of court of the county in which the order is  
14 granted. The plaintiff may request a hope card in an application  
15 requesting an order under section 236.4, at a hearing to prove  
16 an allegation of domestic abuse, or at any other time before the  
17 order granted to the plaintiff expires.

18 4. Within three business days of the date an order is  
19 entered, or the date a plaintiff requests a hope card, whichever  
20 is earlier, the clerk of court shall provide a hope card to the  
21 plaintiff.

22 5. The clerk of court shall not assess a fee for the issuance  
23 of a hope card.

24 6. A plaintiff's hope card shall be valid until any of the  
25 following occur:

26 a. Two years from the date an order is entered for the  
27 plaintiff.

28 b. The date the order for which the hope card was created  
29 expires.

30 7. A hope card may be digital, or a durable wallet-sized  
31 card, and shall contain all of the following information:

32 a. The defendant's name and date of birth.

33 b. The plaintiff's name and date of birth.

34 c. Information relating to the order granted to the plaintiff  
35 including but not limited to all of the following:

- 1 (1) The case number of the proceeding.
- 2 (2) The date the order was issued.
- 3 (3) The expiration date of the order, if any.
- 4 (4) The date of issuance and the expiration date of the hope  
5 card.

6 8. A person who presents a hope card, or other document  
7 purporting to be a hope card, as a valid hope card when the  
8 person knows or should have known the hope card or other document  
9 is not a valid hope card commits a simple misdemeanor.

10 Sec. 2. Section 903.1, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 3. A person under eighteen years of age convicted of a simple  
13 misdemeanor under chapter 236, 321, 321G, 321I, 453A, 461A, 461B,  
14 462A, 481A, 481B, 483A, 484A, or 484B, or a violation of a county  
15 or municipal curfew or traffic ordinance, except for an offense  
16 subject to section 805.8, may be required to pay a fine, not  
17 to exceed one hundred dollars, as fixed by the court, or may be  
18 required to perform community service as ordered by the court.

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 a hope card program for plaintiffs  
23 granted certain orders in a domestic abuse proceeding.

24 The bill requires the attorney general, in consultation with  
25 the district clerks of court, to develop and implement a hope  
26 card program to provide for the issuance of a hope card to  
27 each person who has been granted an order in a domestic abuse  
28 proceeding that is meant to protect a plaintiff from domestic  
29 abuse prior to a hearing or requires a defendant to cease  
30 domestic abuse of a plaintiff (order).

31 The bill allows a plaintiff who is granted an order to request  
32 a hope card from the clerk of court of the county in which the  
33 order is granted. The plaintiff may request a hope card in an  
34 application requesting an order to protect the plaintiff from  
35 domestic abuse prior to a hearing, at a hearing to prove an

1 allegation of domestic abuse, or at any other time before the  
2 order granted to the plaintiff expires. A clerk of court must  
3 create and provide a hope card to the plaintiff within three  
4 business days of the date an order is entered or the date a  
5 plaintiff requests a hope card, whichever is earlier.

6 The bill prohibits the clerk of court from assessing a fee for  
7 the issuance of a hope card.

8 The bill makes a petitioner's hope card valid until the  
9 plaintiff's order expires, or two years from the date the order  
10 was entered for the plaintiff, whichever is earlier. A hope card  
11 may be digital, or a durable wallet-sized card. The bill details  
12 the information that must be contained on a hope card.

13 The bill makes it a simple misdemeanor for a person to present  
14 a hope card, or other document purporting to be a hope card, as  
15 a valid hope card when the person knows or should have known the  
16 hope card or other document is not a valid hope card. A simple  
17 misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than 30 days  
18 and a fine of at least \$105 but not more than \$855.

19 The bill makes a conforming change to Code section 903.1  
20 (maximum sentence for misdemeanants).