

House File 2728 - Introduced

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BY LUNDGREN, GERHOLD, BRADLEY,
BARKER, YOUNG, HENDERSON,
DETERMANN, A. MEYER,
COLLINS, GEHLBACH, LARSON,
WILLIAMS, BODEN, FETT,
MOORE, NORDMAN, FISHER,
WATKINS, BLOOMINGDALE,
STONE, HERMANSON, LATHAM,
INGELS, HOLT, VONDRAN,
WILZ, 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
10 serves no legitimate purpose.

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

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

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

21 (3) Harass the first responder.

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

24 EXPLANATION

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

27 This bill relates to obstructing first responders.

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

1 physical harm; or harass the first responder.

2 A person violating the bill commits a serious misdemeanor. A
3 serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more
4 than one year and a fine of at least \$430 but not more than
5 \$2,560.