

**Senate File 243 - Reprinted**

SENATE FILE 243  
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1054)

(As Amended and Passed by the Senate March 17, 2021)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to public safety including the crimes of  
2 failure to assist, abuse of a corpse, and interference with  
3 official acts, and providing penalties.

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

1 Section 1. Section 708.14, subsection 1, Code 2021, is  
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *c.* Fails to disclose the known location of a  
4 corpse with the intent to conceal a crime.

5 Sec. 2. Section 719.1, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code 2021,  
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 *a.* A person commits interference with official acts when  
8 the person knowingly resists or obstructs anyone known by  
9 the person to be a peace officer, jailer, emergency medical  
10 care provider under [chapter 147A](#), medical examiner, or fire  
11 fighter, whether paid or volunteer, or a person performing  
12 bailiff duties pursuant to [section 602.1303](#), [subsection 3](#), in  
13 the performance of any act which is within the scope of the  
14 lawful duty or authority of that officer, jailer, emergency  
15 medical care provider under [chapter 147A](#), medical examiner, or  
16 fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, or a person performing  
17 bailiff duties pursuant to [section 602.1303](#), [subsection 3](#), or  
18 who knowingly resists or obstructs the service or execution by  
19 any authorized person of any civil or criminal process or order  
20 of any court.

21 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **727.12 Failure to assist.**

22 1. A person who witnesses another person suffering from  
23 imminent danger of death or risk of serious bodily injury, who,  
24 unreasonably and without lawful cause, fails to immediately  
25 contact local emergency response authorities or local law  
26 enforcement, or both, as required by the circumstances, commits  
27 an aggravated misdemeanor.

28 2. For the purposes of fulfilling the requirement imposed by  
29 subsection 1, a promptly placed 911 call shall discharge the  
30 requirement to assist.

31 3. *a.* It shall be a defense to a prosecution brought under  
32 subsection 1 that the person actually believed that the other  
33 person was not suffering from imminent danger of death or risk  
34 of serious bodily injury.

35 *b.* It shall be a defense to a prosecution brought under

1 subsection 1 that the person attempted to contact the local  
2 emergency response authorities or local law enforcement,  
3 or both, and was unable to contact either or both due to  
4 circumstances beyond the person's control.

5 c. It shall be a defense to a prosecution brought under  
6 subsection 1 that the person had a reasonable belief that  
7 providing assistance or making contact as required by  
8 subsection 1 would place the person at risk of serious bodily  
9 injury or death.

10 4. For purposes of this section, "*serious bodily injury*"  
11 means the same as defined in section 455B.146A.