

House File 2629 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 2629
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 981)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 12, 2026)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to trespass, and providing penalties.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 716.7, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended
2 by adding the following new paragraphs:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0a. "Immediate family member" means a
4 person's spouse, children, parents or guardians, siblings, and
5 grandparents, whether related by blood, adoption, or marriage.

6 NEW PARAGRAPH. 00a. "Lawful authority" means the ability
7 of a person to produce a deed or mortgage statement in the
8 person's name, a lease agreement that includes the name and
9 signature of the property owner or an authorized representative
10 of the property owner, a valid written or electronic agreement or
11 communication authorizing the person to enter upon the property,
12 or a receipt or other reliable evidence of a rent payment made
13 to the property owner or an authorized representative of the
14 property owner dated within the last sixty days.

15 NEW PARAGRAPH. g. "Squatting" means a person knowingly
16 taking up residence at a property not open to the public without
17 lawful authority.

18 Sec. 2. Section 716.7, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2026,
19 is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

20 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (2A) Squatting, if all of the following
21 are true:

22 (a) The person is not a current tenant at the property.

23 (b) The person does not have a valid agreement to occupy the
24 property.

25 (c) The person is not an immediate family member of the owner
26 of the property.

27 (d) The person acts without lawful authority in entering and
28 residing on the property.

29 Sec. 3. Section 716.8, Code 2026, is amended by adding the
30 following new subsection:

31 NEW SUBSECTION. 9. a. A person committing a trespass
32 as provided in section 716.7, subsection 2, paragraph "a",
33 subparagraph (2A), commits the following:

34 (1) For a first offense, a serious misdemeanor.

35 (2) For a second offense, an aggravated misdemeanor.

1 (3) For a third or subsequent offense, a class "D" felony.
2 b. A person providing a false document in response to a
3 request to produce a document proving lawful authority is, in
4 addition to any other criminal offense, guilty of a fraudulent
5 practice under section 714.8.

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