

**NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
2026 REGULAR SESSION  
DAILY  
SENATE CLIP SHEET**

**March 18, 2026**

**Clip Sheet Summary**

Displays all amendments, fiscal notes, and conference committee reports for previous day.

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
<a href="#">SF 2204</a> .....	<a href="#">S-5101</a> .....	Filed	JANET PETERSEN
<a href="#">SF 2255</a> .....	<a href="#">S-5099</a> .....	Filed	ANNETTE SWEENEY
<a href="#">SF 2379</a> .....	<a href="#">S-5100</a> .....	Adopted	MIKE BOUSSELOT
<a href="#">HF 2547</a> .....	<a href="#">S-5102</a> .....	Filed	COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, et al
<a href="#">HF 2591</a> .....	<a href="#">S-5103</a> .....	Filed	COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, et al

**Fiscal Notes**

[SF 2455](#) — [Non-Network Medical Billing](#) (LSB6871SV)

[HF 2542](#) — [Sentencing Enhancements, Repeat Offenders](#) (LSB6837HV)

SENATE FILE 2204

S-5101

1 Amend Senate File 2204 as follows:

2 1. Page 1, before line 1 by inserting:

3 <Section 1. Section 68A.102, subsection 10, paragraph a,  
4 subparagraph (2), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

5 (2) The payment, by any person other than a candidate or  
6 political committee who receives the service, of compensation  
7 for the personal services of another person which are rendered  
8 to a candidate or political committee for any such purpose.

9 Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 68A.102, subsection 10, paragraph a, Code  
10 2026, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

11 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (3) A coordinated expenditure if the  
12 expenditure must be reported pursuant to subchapter IV.>

13 2. Page 1, after line 2 by inserting:

14 <NEW SUBSECTION. 8A. "*Communication*" means any of the  
15 following:

16 a. A paid advertisement broadcast over radio, television,  
17 cable, or satellite.

18 b. The paid placement of content on the internet or other  
19 electronic communication network.

20 c. A paid advertisement published in a newspaper or  
21 periodical or on a billboard.

22 d. A mailing.

23 e. A printed material.

24 NEW SUBSECTION. 10A. "*Coordinated expenditure*" means  
25 an expenditure made in cooperation with, in consultation  
26 with, at the request of, or with the express prior consent  
27 of a candidate or committee receiving the benefit of the  
28 expenditure.>

29 3. Page 1, after line 5 by inserting:

30 <NEW SUBSECTION. 13A. a. "*Electioneering communication*"  
31 means a paid communication that is publicly distributed by  
32 radio, television, cable, satellite, internet site, newspaper,  
33 periodical, billboard, mail, electronic mail, or any other  
34 distribution of materials, that is made within sixty days of  
35 the initiation of voting in an election that does not support

1 or oppose a candidate or ballot issue, that can be received  
2 by more than one hundred persons, and that does any of the  
3 following:

4 (1) Refers to one or more clearly identified candidates in  
5 that election.

6 (2) Depicts the name, image, likeness, or voice of a clearly  
7 identified candidate in that election.

8 (3) Refers to a political party, ballot issue, or a question  
9 submitted to the voters in that election.

10 *b. "Electioneering communication"* does not include any of  
11 the following:

12 (1) A bona fide news story, commentary, blog, or editorial  
13 distributed through the facilities of any broadcasting station,  
14 newspaper, magazine, internet site, or other periodical  
15 publication of general circulation.

16 (2) A communication by a membership organization or  
17 corporation to its members, stockholders, or employees.

18 (3) A commercial communication that depicts a candidate's  
19 name, image, likeness, or voice only in the candidate's  
20 capacity as owner, operator, or employee of a business that  
21 existed prior to the organization of a candidate's committee by  
22 the candidate pursuant to section 68A.202.

23 (4) A communication that constitutes a candidate debate or  
24 forum or that solely promotes a candidate debate or forum and  
25 is made by or on behalf of the person sponsoring the debate or  
26 forum.

27 (5) A communication that the board determines by rule is not  
28 an electioneering communication.>

29 4. Page 1, after line 28 by inserting:

30 <Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 68A.102, subsections 14 and 18, Code  
31 2026, are amended to read as follows:

32 14. a. "*Express advocacy*" or ~~to~~ "*expressly advocate*" means  
33 communication that can be characterized according to at least  
34 one of the following descriptions:

35 ~~a.~~ (1) The communication is political speech made in the

1 form of a contribution.

2 ~~b.~~ (2) In advocating the election or defeat of one or more  
3 clearly identified candidates or the passage or defeat of one  
4 or more clearly identified ballot issues, the communication  
5 includes explicit words that unambiguously indicate that the  
6 communication is recommending or supporting a particular  
7 outcome in the election with regard to any clearly identified  
8 candidate or ballot issue.

9 b. "Express advocacy" or "expressly advocate" does not mean  
10 a communication that can be characterized according to one or  
11 more of the following descriptions:

12 (1) The communication encourages individuals to register  
13 to vote or to vote, provided that the communication does not  
14 mention or depict a candidate or ballot issue.

15 (2) The communication does not support or oppose a candidate  
16 or ballot issue.

17 (3) The communication is a bona fide news story, commentary,  
18 blog, or editorial distributed through the facilities of any  
19 broadcasting station, newspaper, magazine, internet site, or  
20 other periodical publication of general circulation.

21 (4) The communication is by a membership organization or  
22 corporation to its members, stockholders, or employees.

23 (5) The board determines by rule that the communication is  
24 not express advocacy.

25 18. "Political committee" means any of the following:

26 a. A committee, but not a candidate's committee, that  
27 accepts contributions in excess of ~~one thousand~~ two hundred  
28 fifty dollars in the aggregate, makes expenditures in excess  
29 of ~~one thousand~~ two hundred fifty dollars in the aggregate, or  
30 incurs indebtedness in excess of ~~one thousand~~ two hundred fifty  
31 dollars in the aggregate in any one calendar year to expressly  
32 advocate the nomination, election, or defeat of a candidate  
33 for public office, make an electioneering communication, or to  
34 expressly advocate the passage or defeat of a ballot issue.

35 b. An association, lodge, society, cooperative, union,

1 fraternity, sorority, educational institution, civic  
2 organization, labor organization, religious organization, or  
3 professional organization that accepts contributions in excess  
4 of ~~one thousand~~ two hundred fifty dollars in the aggregate,  
5 makes expenditures in excess of ~~one thousand~~ two hundred fifty  
6 dollars in the aggregate, or incurs indebtedness in excess of  
7 ~~one thousand~~ two hundred fifty dollars in the aggregate in  
8 any one calendar year to expressly advocate the nomination,  
9 election, or defeat of a candidate for public office, make an  
10 electioneering communication, or to expressly advocate the  
11 passage or defeat of a ballot issue.

12 c. A person, other than an individual, that accepts  
13 contributions in excess of ~~one thousand~~ two hundred fifty  
14 dollars in the aggregate, makes expenditures in excess of  
15 ~~one thousand~~ two hundred fifty dollars in the aggregate, or  
16 incurs indebtedness in excess of ~~one thousand~~ two hundred fifty  
17 dollars in the aggregate in any one calendar year to expressly  
18 advocate that an individual should or should not seek election  
19 to a public office prior to the individual becoming a candidate  
20 as defined in subsection 4.>

21 5. Page 2, after line 25 by inserting:

22 <Sec. \_\_\_\_ . Section 68A.402, subsection 9, Code 2026, is  
23 amended to read as follows:

24 9. a. Permanent organizations. A permanent organization  
25 temporarily engaging in activity described in section 68A.102,  
26 subsection 18, shall organize a political committee and shall  
27 keep the funds relating to that political activity segregated  
28 from its operating funds. The political committee shall file  
29 reports on the appropriate due dates as required by this  
30 section.

31 b. The reports filed under this subsection shall identify  
32 the all of the following:

33 (1) The source of the original funds used for a contribution  
34 made to a candidate or a committee organized under this  
35 chapter.

S-5101 (Continued)

- 1     (2) The aggregate amount of contributions made by each  
2 person.
- 3     (3) Each loan received from any person during the reporting  
4 period.
- 5     (4) The amount and nature of debts and obligations owed to  
6 the committee.
- 7     (5) Proceeds that total less than thirty-five dollars  
8 per person from mass collections made at fund-raising events  
9 sponsored by the committee.
- 10    (6) The total sum of contributions received by the committee  
11 for a specified candidate or committee.
- 12    (7) The full name, mailing address, occupation, and  
13 principal place of business, if any, of each person or  
14 committee to whom an expenditure has been made during the  
15 reporting period, including the amount, date, and purpose of  
16 each expenditure and the total amount of expenditures to each  
17 person or committee.
- 18    (8) The full name, mailing address, occupation, and  
19 principal place of business, if any, of each person to whom an  
20 expenditure for personal services, salaries, and reimbursement  
21 of expenses has been made, including the amount, date,  
22 and purpose of that expenditure, and the total amount of  
23 expenditures made to each person.
- 24    (9) The total sum of expenditures made during the reporting  
25 period.
- 26    (10) The full name, mailing address, occupation, and  
27 principal place of business, if any, of any person to whom a  
28 loan was made, and the full name, mailing address, occupation,  
29 and principal place of business, if any, of any endorsers, and  
30 the date and amount of each loan.
- 31    (11) The amount and nature of debts and obligations owed by  
32 the committee.
- 33    (12) Other information as may be required by the board by  
34 rule.
- 35    (13) For reports of expenditures made to a consultant,

1 advertising agency, polling firm, or other person that performs  
2 services for the committee, the report shall be itemized  
3 and described in sufficient detail to disclose the specific  
4 services performed by the entity.

5 c. When the permanent organization ceases to be involved  
6 in the political activity, the permanent organization shall  
7 dissolve the political committee.

8 d. As used in this subsection, "*permanent organization*"  
9 means an organization that is continuing, stable, and enduring,  
10 and was originally organized for purposes other than engaging  
11 in election activities.

12 Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 68A.402A, subsection 1, paragraphs f and  
13 g, Code 2026, are amended to read as follows:

14 f. The name and mailing address of each person and committee  
15 to whom disbursements, payments for personal services,  
16 salaries, reimbursement for expenses, or loan repayments  
17 have been made by the committee from contributions during  
18 the reporting period and the amount, purpose, and date of  
19 each disbursement except that disbursements of less than five  
20 dollars may be shown as miscellaneous disbursements so long as  
21 the aggregate miscellaneous disbursements to any one person  
22 during a calendar year do not exceed one hundred dollars.  
23 Reports of disbursements under this paragraph must be itemized  
24 and sufficiently detailed to disclose the specific services  
25 performed by the person to whom a disbursement was made.

26 g. Disbursements made to a consultant, advertising agency,  
27 or polling firm and disbursements made by the consultant,  
28 advertising agency, or polling firm during the reporting  
29 period disclosing the name and address of the recipient,  
30 amount, purpose, and date. Reports of disbursements under  
31 this paragraph must be itemized and sufficiently detailed to  
32 disclose the specific services performed by the entity to whom  
33 a disbursement was made.

34 Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 68A.402A, subsection 1, Code 2026, is  
35 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

1 NEW PARAGRAPH. 1. The total sum of disbursements made.>

2 6. Page 3, after line 17 by inserting:

3 <Sec. \_\_\_\_ . NEW SECTION. 68A.404A Electioneering  
4 communications — reports.

5 1. A person making an electioneering communication shall  
6 file a report with the board, including a description of the  
7 communication, how the communication was distributed, and  
8 the amount of any expenditure made on the electioneering  
9 communication, except that a person spending less than two  
10 hundred fifty dollars on electioneering communications in a  
11 taxable year shall not be required to file a report.

12 2. The board shall adopt rules for the form and schedule of  
13 reports filed under this section.

14 Sec. \_\_\_\_ . Section 68A.405, subsection 1, paragraphs b, c, d,  
15 e, f, g, and h, Code 2026, are amended to read as follows:

16 b. (1) Except as set out in subsection 2, published  
17 material designed to expressly advocate the nomination,  
18 election, or defeat of a candidate for public office or  
19 the passage or defeat of a ballot issue and electioneering  
20 communications shall include on the published material  
21 or electioneering communication an attribution statement  
22 disclosing who is responsible for the published material or  
23 electioneering communication.

24 (2) The person who is responsible for the published material  
25 or electioneering communication has the sole responsibility  
26 and liability for the attribution statement required by this  
27 section.

28 c. If the person paying for the published material or  
29 electioneering communication is an individual, the words "paid  
30 for by" and the name and address of the person shall appear on  
31 the published material or electioneering communication.

32 d. If more than one individual is responsible, the words  
33 "paid for by", the names of the individuals, and either  
34 the addresses of the individuals or a statement that the  
35 addresses of the individuals are on file with the Iowa ethics

1 and campaign disclosure board shall appear on the published  
2 material or electioneering communication.

3 e. If the person responsible is an organization, the words  
4 "paid for by", the name and address of the organization, and  
5 the name of one officer of the organization shall appear on the  
6 published material or electioneering communication.

7 f. If the person responsible is a corporation, the words  
8 "paid for by", the name and address of the corporation, and the  
9 name and title of the corporation's chief executive officer  
10 shall appear on the published material or electioneering  
11 communication.

12 g. If the person responsible is a committee that has filed  
13 a statement of organization pursuant to section 68A.201, the  
14 words "paid for by" and the name of the committee shall appear  
15 on the published material or electioneering communication.

16 h. If the published material or electioneering communication  
17 is the result of an independent expenditure subject to section  
18 68A.404, the published material or electioneering communication  
19 shall include a statement that the published material or  
20 electioneering communication was not authorized by any  
21 candidate, candidate's committee, or ballot issue committee.

22 Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 68A.405, subsection 2, paragraph d, Code  
23 2026, is amended to read as follows:

24 d. Any published material or electioneering communication  
25 that is subject to federal regulations regarding an attribution  
26 requirement.

27 Sec. \_\_\_\_\_. Section 68A.405, subsection 4, Code 2026, is  
28 amended to read as follows:

29 4. The board shall adopt rules relating to the placing of an  
30 attribution statement on published materials and electioneering  
31 communication.>

32 7. By renumbering as necessary.

By JANET PETERSEN

S-5101 (Continued)

S-5101 FILED MARCH 17, 2026

SENATE FILE 2255

S-5099

1 Amend the amendment, S-5050, to Senate File 2255, as  
2 follows:

3 1. Page 2, by striking lines 17 through 21.

4 2. Page 3, after line 13 by inserting:

5 <4. The department shall not assess any fees associated with  
6 the receipt, collection, or analysis of reports required under  
7 this section.>

8 3. Page 3, after line 16 by inserting:

9 <Sec. \_\_\_\_ . DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES — PROPRIETARY  
10 TREATMENT SYSTEM STUDY.

11 1. The department of natural resources shall conduct a  
12 study utilizing the information regarding proprietary treatment  
13 systems reported to the department pursuant to section  
14 455B.243, as enacted by this Act.

15 2. In conducting the study, the department shall  
16 review the information submitted in annual inspection and  
17 maintenance reports, including system functionality, causes of  
18 deficiencies, and maintenance practices. The department shall  
19 also review any other data the department determines relevant  
20 to evaluating system performance.

21 3. The study shall include analysis of inspection,  
22 monitoring, and maintenance data collected from July 1,  
23 2026, to December 1, 2027, for purposes of evaluating the  
24 performance, reliability, maintenance needs, and common causes  
25 of malfunction of proprietary treatment systems, as defined in  
26 section 455B.241, as enacted by this Act.

27 4. The department shall submit to the general assembly on or  
28 before January 10, 2028, a report detailing the department's  
29 findings and recommendations.>

30 4. By renumbering as necessary.

By ANNETTE SWEENEY

S-5099 FILED MARCH 17, 2026

SENATE FILE 2379

S-5100

- 1 Amend Senate File 2379 as follows:
- 2 1. Page 2, by striking lines 23 through 25.
- 3 2. By striking page 2, line 34, through page 3, line 6.
- 4 3. Page 12, line 30, before <department> by inserting
- 5 <federal>
- 6 4. Page 12, line 34, before <department> by inserting
- 7 <state>
- 8 5. Page 13, line 3, before <department> by inserting <state>
- 9 6. Page 13, line 5, before <department> by inserting
- 10 <federal>
- 11 7. Page 13, line 13, before <department> by inserting
- 12 <federal>

By MIKE BOUSSELOT

S-5100 FILED MARCH 17, 2026

ADOPTED

HOUSE FILE 2547

S-5102

1 Amend House File 2547, as amended, passed, and reprinted by  
2 the House, as follows:

3 1. By striking page 2, line 16, through page 3, line 4.

4 2. Page 5, by striking lines 17 through 32.

5 3. Title page, by striking lines 6 through 9 and inserting  
6 <career and academic plans.>

7 4. By renumbering as necessary.

By COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
LYNN EVANS, CHAIRPERSON

S-5102 FILED MARCH 17, 2026

HOUSE FILE 2591

S-5103

- 1 Amend House File 2591, as passed by the House, as follows:
- 2 1. Page 1, after line 22 by inserting:
- 3 <Sec. \_\_\_\_ . EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect August 1,
- 4 2026.>
- 5 2. Title page, line 3, by striking <requirements> and
- 6 inserting <requirements, and including effective date
- 7 provisions>
- 8 3. By renumbering as necessary.

By COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
LYNN EVANS, CHAIRPERSON

S-5103 FILED MARCH 17, 2026



# Fiscal Note

## Fiscal Services Division



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[SF 2455](#) – Non-Network Medical Billing (LSB6871SV.1)

Staff Contact: Xavier Leonard (515.725.0509) [xavier.leonard@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:xavier.leonard@legis.iowa.gov)

Fiscal Note Version – Revised

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### Description

[Senate File 2455](#) relates to insurance coverage for emergency services, reimbursement for out-of-network providers, and complicating factors, and does the following:

- Requires policies, contracts, and plans that provide for third-party payment or prepayment of medical expenses to provide coverage for health care services provided to a covered person by an out-of-network provider in any of the following circumstances:
  - The health care services are emergency services.
  - The health care services were provided at a participating facility, and the covered person did not have the ability or opportunity to receive the services from a participating provider.
- Includes exceptions for the uniformity of treatment requirements in Iowa Code section [514C.6](#).
- Requires an out-of-network provider to submit claims to the covered person's health carrier within 60 days of providing the service.
- Requires, within 60 days of receiving a claim, the covered person's health carrier to reimburse the out-of-network provider with the greater amount of the following:
  - The median amount that would have been paid to a participating provider who practices in the same specialty as the out-of-network provider for providing the same health care services, excluding any cost sharing.
  - 150.0% of the most recently published federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) fee schedule for the health care services provided by the out-of-network provider, excluding any cost sharing.
- Authorizes out-of-network providers who provide health care services that involve complicating factors, as defined in the Bill, to submit a claim for reimbursement in addition to the amounts permitted above. Includes additional documentation requirements.
- Requires health carriers, within 30 days of receiving a claim for additional reimbursement from an out-of-network provider, to pay an additional 25.0% of the amount paid on the initial claim or to issue a denial and explain the basis for the denial.
- Authorizes an out-of-network provider whose claim for additional reimbursement has been denied by a health carrier to file with the Iowa Insurance Commissioner a request for binding arbitration.
- Provides additional requirements for arbitration related to notification, the selection of arbitrator, documentation, factors for consideration, timeline, and the even split of arbitration costs between the carrier and the provider.
- Authorizes the Commissioner to adopt administrative rules to administer the Bill.

The Bill is applicable to specified classes of third-party payment provider contracts, policies, and plans delivered, issued for delivery, continued, or renewed beginning January 1, 2027.

**Fiscal Impact**

The LSA received updated information on March 16, 2026, and the Bill no longer requires a Fiscal Note.

**Sources**

Board of Regents  
Department of Administrative Services  
Iowa Insurance Division  
Wellmark

/s/ Jennifer Acton

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March 16, 2026

Doc ID 1603164

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The Fiscal Note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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# Fiscal Note

## Fiscal Services Division



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[HF 2542](#) – Sentencing Enhancements, Repeat Offenders (LSB6837HV.1)  
Staff Contact: Justus Thompson (515.725.2249) [justus.thompson@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:justus.thompson@legis.iowa.gov)  
Fiscal Note Version – As amended and passed by the House

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### Description

[House File 2542](#) establishes that a habitual offender is a person who has been convicted of an offense, who has been convicted of an offense committed in another jurisdiction that would constitute an equivalent offense, or who has any combination of level one or level two offenses resulting in the accumulation of three or more points. The accumulation of points only applies to convictions occurring on or after July 1, 2026.

The Bill defines a level one offense as all Class A, B, C, and D felonies and all aggravated misdemeanors that involve sexual abuse under Iowa Code chapter [709](#), domestic abuse assault under Iowa Code section [708.2A](#), assault with the intent to inflict a serious injury or while using or displaying a dangerous weapon under Iowa Code section [708.2\(1\)](#) and [708.2\(3\)](#), or organized retail theft under Iowa Code section [714.2B\(3\)\(c\)](#). For purposes of determining habitual offender status, each conviction of a level one offense is worth one point.

The Bill defines a level two offense as all aggravated misdemeanors that are not classified as a level one offense under the Bill and serious misdemeanors that involve assault causing bodily injury or mental illness under Iowa Code section [708.2\(2\)](#), domestic abuse assault causing bodily injury or mental illness under Iowa Code section [708.2A\(2\)\(b\)](#), and criminal mischief in the third degree under Iowa Code section [716.4](#). For purposes of determining habitual offender status, each conviction of a level two offense is worth one-half point.

All pending charges against a person will be aggregated, and only the most serious charge against the person will count toward the accumulation of points.

The Bill requires the court to consider only criminal convictions within 20 years of the current conviction when determining whether a prior conviction counts toward the accumulation of three or more points.

Under the Bill, a person sentenced as a habitual offender is not eligible for parole or work release until the person has served a minimum term of 20 years of confinement. If the person is convicted of a current level one offense with a higher minimum sentence, that will be considered the minimum sentence. In addition, deferred judgments or suspended sentences are disallowed for habitual offenders.

### Background

Under current law, a habitual offender is any person convicted of a Class C or a Class D felony who has twice before been convicted of any felony. A person sentenced as a habitual offender is not eligible for parole until the person has served the minimum sentence of three years. The maximum sentence for a habitual offender convicted of a felony, other than a Class A felony, is 15 years.

The average sentence length for all individuals admitted to prison in FY 2025 (excluding life sentences) was 5.35 to 5.55 years.

In FY 2025, there were a total of 1,676 new prison admits of which 870 prison admits (51.9%) would have met the criteria for the new 20-year mandatory minimum.

In FY 2025, there were a total of 14,016 new probation admits of which 2,289 probation admits (16.3%) would have met the criteria for the new 20-year mandatory minimum.

Currently, a serious misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for up to one year or a fine of at least \$430 but not more than \$2,560. An aggravated misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for up to two years and a fine of at least \$855 but not more than \$8,540. A Class D felony is punishable by confinement for up to five years and a fine of at least \$1,025 but not more than \$10,245. A Class C felony is punishable by confinement for up to 10 years and a fine of at least \$1,370 but not more than \$13,660. A Class B felony is punishable by confinement for up to 25 years and a fine of at least \$5,000 but not more than \$100,000.

The General Assembly last appropriated funding to build a new prison during the 2008 legislative session. 2008 Iowa Acts, chapter [1179](#) (FY 2009 Infrastructure Appropriations Act), appropriated \$131.0 million for the construction of the Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP). The ISP is a maximum-security prison with a capacity of approximately 760 inmates.

On September 23, 2025, South Dakota enacted [SB 2](#), which appropriated \$650.0 million to the South Dakota Department of Corrections (SDDOC) for the construction of a new prison facility. The cost includes the construction of a men's correctional facility located on 176 acres of land in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, approximately 10 miles from the Iowa border. The prison is estimated to be 546,000 square feet, approximately 40 square feet per inmate, with a housing capacity of approximately 1,500 beds with 1,200 beds built to house medium/maximum-security inmates and 300 beds built to house medium-security inmates (dorms). The prison has an estimated lifespan of 100 years. In FY 2025, the SDDOC was 35.0% over capacity with a population of 3,750 and stated capacity of 2,775.

According to the DOC, as of March 1, 2026, the DOC prisons are 24.8% over capacity with a total prison population of 8,722 and a stated prison capacity of 6,990. An increase of approximately 70 prisoners is an estimated increase of 1.0% in prison population.

The current prison security level and approximate capacity for each facility is as follows:

- Anamosa State Penitentiary: medium, 908
- Clarinda Correctional Facility: medium, 750
- Fort Dodge Correctional Facility: medium, 1,162
- Iowa Correctional Institution for Women: medium, 654
- Iowa Medical and Classification Center: medium/minimum, 585
- Iowa State Penitentiary: maximum, 612
- Mount Pleasant Correctional Facility: minimum, 776, and minimum Live-Out, 164
- Newton Correctional Facility: medium, 762, and minimum, 252
- North Central Correctional Facility: minimum, 245

**Figure 1** shows the average State cost per relevant offense. The estimated impact to the General Fund includes operating costs incurred by the Judicial Branch, the Indigent Defense

Fund, and the DOC. The costs would be incurred across multiple fiscal years for prison and parole supervision.

**Figure 1 — Average State Cost Per Offense**

Offense Class	Average Cost
Serious Misdemeanor	\$350 to \$6,200
Aggravated Misdemeanor	\$8,300 to \$12,200
Class D Felony	\$13,000 to \$18,100
Class C Felony	\$15,000 to \$25,200
Class B Felony	\$18,400 to \$39,600

**Assumptions**

- The following will not change over the projection period: charge, conviction, and sentencing patterns and trends; prisoner LOS; revocation rates; plea bargaining; and other criminal justice system policies and practices.
- County jail data is unavailable. For purposes of this analysis, the marginal cost for county jails is assumed to be \$50 per day.
- Conviction data reflects the total number of convictions in adult court, which may include multiple convictions per individual. Not all convictions lead to incarceration, and there may be a delay between conviction and prison admission, which can contribute to differences in totals.
- A six-month delay is assumed from the effective date of the Bill to the date the first offender will enter the correctional system.
- Offender-based convictions are a count of individuals convicted of the same offense. Each offender is counted only once per Iowa Code section, regardless of the number of individual convictions.
- Admissions are a count of individuals newly admitted to the Department of Corrections (DOC) for supervision during a selected time period, based on the most serious offense committed.
- Recidivism patterns remain constant, including distribution across sex and race.
- Defendants with longer sentences are more likely to go to trial.
- The distribution of qualifying offenses and point accumulation remains consistent over time.
- Annual admissions trends will remain consistent over time.
- New maximum/medium-security prison(s) will need to be built.
- Existing prison and facility housing will need to be expanded.
- The average sentence length will increase (excluding life sentences) to 13.41 years.

The LOS for a level one habitual offender will increase for offense classes as follows:

- A Class B felony will increase by 2,455 days.
- A Class C felony will increase by 5,682 days.
- A Class D felony will increase by 6,668 days.
- An aggravated misdemeanor will increase by 6,933 days.

The LOS for a level two habitual offender will increase for offense classes as follows:

- An aggravated misdemeanor will increase by 7,018 days.
- A serious misdemeanor will increase by 7,079 days.

## **Correctional Impact**

According to the DOC, the correctional impact of HF 2542 is as follows:

- By FY 2030, the prison population is projected to be 9,861, a projected increase of 1,174 individuals or 13.5% compared to the FY 2025 population of 8,687.
- By FY 2040, the prison population is projected to be 18,724, a projected increase of 10,037 individuals or 115.5% compared to the FY 2025 population.
- By FY 2045, the prison population is projected to be 24,659, a projected increase of 15,972 individuals or 183.9% compared to the FY 2025 population.

The correctional impact based on convictions that occur in jurisdictions outside of Iowa cannot be estimated.

## **Minority Impact**

House File 2542 enhances penalties related to habitual offenders and may disproportionately impact Black individuals if trends remain constant. Of the 870 prison admits for FY 2025 who would have met the criteria for the new 20-year mandatory minimum, 69.5% were White, 21.6% were Black, and 8.7% were other races. Iowa's population is 83.2% White, 4.2% Black, and 12.6% other races. Refer to the LSA memo addressed to the General Assembly, [Minority Impact Statements](#), dated January 12, 2026, for information related to minorities in the criminal justice system.

## **Fiscal Impact**

The total fiscal impact of HF 2542 will be significant.

### ***One-Time Construction Costs***

Due to the estimated increase to the prison population, additional housing will be necessary. To accommodate population growth, the DOC estimates the following additional housing requirements to existing prison infrastructure and new construction within the next 20 years:

- 200 beds by restoration of the Clinical Care Unit (CCU) at Iowa State Penitentiary at an estimated cost of \$4.7 million.
- 500-bed housing unit added at Newton Correctional Facility (new construction) at an estimated cost of \$132.4 million.
- 256-bed housing unit added at Iowa State Penitentiary (new construction) at an estimated cost of \$65.2 million.
- One new maximum-security prison with 868 beds total (new construction) at an estimated cost of \$481.4 million.
- 13 new medium/minimum-security prisons with 1,162 beds each (15,106 beds total) (new construction) at an estimated cost of \$7.668 billion.

This is a total of 16,930 additional beds, an excess of 958 beds above the projected prison population of 15,972 by 2045.

If required, prison construction will take multiple years to complete, which may create unexpected costs for county jails. According to the DOC, housing units would take up to five years to complete and new prison construction would require approximately five to seven years once funding is secured. Accordingly, the new housing would need to be constructed as the prison population grows. For example, if the prison population increases by 1,174 individuals by 2030 as estimated by the DOC, and it takes approximately five to seven years to build a new prison, new construction may need to be initiated in FY 2027 to accommodate the increased prison population by 2030.

### Ongoing Operational Costs

The DOC estimates the following ongoing annual staffing, operational, and maintenance costs will be incurred over the next 20 years:

- \$8.1 million — CCU at Iowa State Penitentiary
- \$6.3 million — Newton Correctional Facility
- \$5.8 million — Iowa State Penitentiary
- \$40.4 million — one new maximum-security prison
- \$413.5 million — 13 new medium/minimum-security prisons
- Total estimated ongoing costs — \$474.1 million annually

The ongoing operating costs are primarily staffing costs to operate new housing units and facilities on a 24-hour basis, including security, medical, administrative, and facility support roles.

### Increased LOS by Individual by Offense

**Figure 2** shows the increased cost per habitual offender based on the marginal cost per day for prisons and the increased LOS.

If there is one offender per offense class per year, the total ongoing cost per year based on the increased LOS would be \$827,000. The number of habitual offenders per year will likely increase over the next several fiscal years, but the total average number of habitual offenders over time is unknown. **Figure 2** shows the estimated total cost per offense class for one individual.

**Figure 2 — Total Expenditure Increase by Crime for One Individual**

Offense Level	Days added to LOS/person	Marginal Cost Per Day Prison	Total
Level One: B Felony	2,455	\$23.07	\$56,637
Level One: C Felony	5,682	\$23.07	\$131,084
Level One: D Felony	6,668	\$23.07	\$153,831
Level One: Aggravated Misdemeanor	6,933	\$23.07	\$159,944
Level Two: Aggravated Misdemeanor	7,018	\$23.07	\$161,905
Level Two: Serious Misdemeanor	7,079	\$23.07	\$163,313

Due to an anticipated increase in the number of trials, the projected cost to the Indigent Defense Fund and the Office of the State Public Defender is approximately \$1.6 million per year. The fiscal impact to the Judicial Branch is unknown.

### Sources

Department of Corrections

Division of Data, Planning, and Improvement (DPI), Department of Management (DOM)

Office of the State Public Defender

/s/ Jennifer Acton

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The Fiscal Note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this Fiscal Note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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