



# IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

## BILL SUMMARY

# Gun Free Zone Restrictions HF 2502

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**Status of Bill:** House Calendar

**Committee:** Public Safety (11-8)

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**Lead Democrat:** Rep. Wessel-Kroeschell

**Floor Manager:** Rep. Holt

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## Background

Last session, HF 636 (Guns on School Property) passed the House Public Safety Committee and contained the following regulations relating to firearms on school, public/private businesses and courthouse property:

- *Section 1:* Currently, anyone carrying a concealed weapon on school district property would commit a class “D” felony. This section would decriminalize concealed weapons, including revolvers and pistols, on school district property as long as the individual possesses a valid permit and remain on school district’s driveways, parking lots, and sidewalks while carrying a concealed weapon. This section also provides schools immunity from any legal claim brought forward seeking damages for allowing weapons on school grounds.
- *Section 2:* Currently, public and private employers may prohibit employees from carrying, possessing, or transporting firearms on business property. This section would prohibit employers from restricting weapon possession on business grounds as long as the employee’s firearm is hidden and locked within their motor vehicle. This section also provides employers immunity from any claim seeking damages for allowing weapons on business property and from worker’s compensation liability. “Employee” is defined per 914.2(3), which includes a natural person employed in this state for wages, a commission sales person, contract employees or volunteers.
- *Section 3:* During 2017, the Legislature passed HF 517, which expanded state preemption by allowing individuals adversely affected from local government restriction of firearms to bring suit against city officials for injunctive relief and damages. This section would broaden state preemption by prohibiting local government from regulating firearm modifications or extensions and allow individuals access to future firearm or weapon technology. Any individuals adversely affected by local government regulation would be able to file suit seeking relief for all damages attributable to the violation, including reasonable attorney fees and litigation costs.
- *Section 4:* This section would allow any political subdivision to prohibit firearms on their property as long as: (1) arrangements are made to screen individuals for these items and (2) armed security or personnel are provided on political subdivision property.
- *Section 5:* This section would address Chief Justice Cady’s 2017 supervisory order and clarify judicial authority relating to gun regulation. Chief Justice Cady’s 2017 order prohibited weapons in courthouses, but allowed for modification if a county’s controlling entity made a written request. This section would render future judicial orders prohibiting weapons in courthouses unenforceable.

This bill passed Public Safety 11-9 but was never brought forward to the floor for full consideration.

## Bill Summary

HF 2502 contains some HF 636 provisions, including the following:

- Broadening state preemption by prohibiting political subdivisions from regulating firearm attachments, modifications, extensions, other weapons, weapon storage, or ammunition. Any individuals adversely affected by political subdivision regulation would be able to file suit seeking relief for all damages attributable to the violation, including reasonable attorney fees and litigation costs. Any ordinance regulating weapon storage or ammunition existing before July 1, 2020 will be void.
- Allowing any political subdivision to prohibit firearms on their property as long as: (1) arrangements are made to screen individuals for these items and (2) armed security or personnel are provided on political subdivision property.
- Addressing Chief Justice Cady's 2017 supervisory order and clarify judicial authority relating to gun regulation. Chief Justice Cady's 2017 order prohibited weapons in courthouses, but allowed for modification if a county's controlling entity made a written request. This section would render future judicial orders prohibiting weapons in courthouses unenforceable.

Additionally, this bill prohibits City/County Zoning Commission or Council from enforcing zoning regulations relating to establishing, using, or maintaining a shooting range that is more stringent than state law.