



IOWA HOUSE DEMOCRATS

BILL SUMMARY

Medical Amnesty HF 684

Status of Bill: House Calendar

Committee: Public Safety (22-0)

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Lead Democrat: Rep. Breckenridge

Floor Manager: Rep. Klein

Bill Summary

HF 684 provides immunity from certain alcohol-related criminal offenses and prohibits certain disciplinary sanctions individuals seeking or requiring emergency assistance for alcohol.

This bill creates a new code section that would provide immunity to underage individuals from prosecution for public intoxication, possession of alcohol, or using a driver's license to obtain alcohol for drinking as long they sought emergency assistance in good faith for an alcohol overdose. The reporting person(s) must meet all the following requirements to be eligible for immunity: (1) be the first to seek emergency assistance; (2) provide his/her name and contact information to medical or law enforcement personnel; (3) remain on the scene until assistance arrives or is provided; and (4) cooperate with medical and law enforcement personnel.

The bill also directs the Board of Regents to prohibit regent universities from imposing certain disciplinary sanctions against students for possessing or consuming alcohol if the student is immune from prosecution under the new Code section's requirements.

Correctional Impact

During FY 2018, there were 7,457 convictions for public intoxication, 177 convictions for underage alcohol possession, and 29 convictions for using a driver's license by an underage individual. HF 684 is estimated to result in a reduction of convictions, but is inconclusive due to lack of available data relating to emergency assistance for alcohol overdoses. Additionally, most offenses included under immunity are classified as either traffic violations or simple misdemeanors and would not have a correctional impact.

Fiscal Impact

HF 684 fiscal impact cannot be determined at this time due to the lack of data relating to reduction in convictions resulting from the bill. The potential decreases in convictions may produce a decrease in fine revenue related to scheduled traffic violations and simple misdemeanors. However, this estimate is unknown.

Ver Schuer, Alison [LEGIS]\G:\Caucus Staff\AVS\Public Safety\2019 Session\Bill Summaries\HF 684 - Medical Amnesty Bill Summary.docx\February 28, 2020\3:43 PM