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JUDICIARY

HOUSE FILE 542  
BY FALLON

Passed House, Date \_\_\_\_\_ Passed Senate, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: Ayes \_\_\_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act legalizing the sale and use of fireworks, providing for  
2 exceptions and limitations on sales and use, and providing  
3 penalties.

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

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HF 542

1 Section 1. Section 232.2, subsection 12, paragraph c, Code  
2 2001, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. The violation of section 123.47, 727.2F, 727.2G, or  
4 727.2H, which is committed by a child.

5 Sec. 2. Section 727.2, Code 2001, is amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 727.2 FIREWORKS.

8 The term "fireworks" includes any explosive composition~~7-or~~  
9 ~~combination-of-explosive-substances7-or-article-prepared-for~~  
10 ~~the-purpose-of-producing-a-visible-or-audible-effect-by~~  
11 ~~combustion7-explosion7-deflagration7-or-detonation7-and~~  
12 ~~includes-blank-cartridges7-firecrackers7-torpedoes7~~  
13 ~~skyrockets7-roman-candles7-or-other-fireworks-of-like~~  
14 ~~construction-and-fireworks-containing-any-explosive-or~~  
15 ~~flammable-compound7-or-other-device-containing-any-explosive~~  
16 substance or other device containing an explosive substance.

17 The term "fireworks" does not include goldstar-producing  
18 sparklers on wires which contain no magnesium or chlorate or  
19 perchlorate, flitter sparklers in paper tubes that do not  
20 exceed one-eighth of an inch in diameter, toy snakes which  
21 contain no mercury, or caps used in cap pistols.

22 1. A person may use, or a licensed firm, copartnership, or  
23 corporation who-offers, or any other business entity  
24 authorized by law may offer for sale, exposes-for-sale7-sells  
25 at-retail7-or-uses-or-explodes any fireworks7-commits-a  
26 serious-misdemeanor permissible under sections 727.2A and  
27 727.2B. However~~7-the~~

28 2. The council of a city or a county board of supervisors  
29 may, upon application in writing, grant a permit for the  
30 display of fireworks not permissible under section 727.2A by  
31 municipalities, fair associations, amusement parks, and other  
32 organizations or groups of individuals approved by the city or  
33 the county board of supervisors when the fireworks display  
34 will be handled by a competent operator, but no such permit  
35 shall be required for the display of fireworks at the Iowa

1 state fairgrounds by the Iowa state fair board, at  
2 incorporated county fairs, or at district fairs receiving  
3 state aid. ~~Sales-of-fireworks-for-such-display-may-be-made  
4 for-that-purpose-only.~~

5 ~~This-section-does-not-prohibit-the-sale-by-a-resident,  
6 dealer, manufacturer, or jobber of such fireworks as are not  
7 prohibited by this section, or the sale of any kind of  
8 fireworks if they are to be shipped out of the state, or the  
9 sale or use of blank cartridges for a show or the theater, or  
10 for signal purposes in athletic sports or by railroads or  
11 trucks, for signal purposes, or by a recognized military  
12 organization.~~

13 ~~This-section-does-not-apply-to-any-substance-or-composition  
14 prepared-and-sold-for-medicinal-or-fumigation-purposes.~~

15 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 727.2A PERMISSIBLE FIREWORKS.

16 Permissible fireworks are the consumer fireworks enumerated  
17 in chapter 3 of the American pyrotechnics association inc.,  
18 standard 87-1, 1993 edition, and that comply with the labeling  
19 regulations promulgated by the United States consumer product  
20 safety commission effective on January 1, 1998.

21 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 727.2B EXAMINATION OF FIREWORKS.

22 If consumer fireworks are not permissible under section  
23 727.2A, the proposed seller must submit the fireworks to the  
24 state fire marshal for examination and approval prior to the  
25 sale of such fireworks. A person who violates this section  
26 commits a serious misdemeanor.

27 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 727.2C RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTATION  
28 OF FIREWORKS.

29 A person who is not a licensed wholesaler or retailer shall  
30 not bring fireworks into this state. A person who violates  
31 this section commits a serious misdemeanor.

32 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 727.2D RETAIL SALES PERMITTED.

33 The retail sale of fireworks shall not take place before  
34 June 27 and after July 5 of any year. A person who violates  
35 this section commits a serious misdemeanor.

1 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 727.2E SALES PERMITS.

2 1. The state fire marshal shall issue permits for the sale  
3 of fireworks. No permit shall be issued to a person under  
4 eighteen years of age.

5 2. All permits shall be for the calendar year or any  
6 fraction thereof and shall expire on the thirty-first day of  
7 December of each year.

8 3. Permits shall be conspicuously displayed in the permit  
9 holder's place of business along with a large sign that states  
10 the law concerning the sale, use, and possession of fireworks  
11 in this state.

12 4. A permit holder shall include a printed copy of the  
13 law concerning the sale, use, and possession of fireworks in  
14 this state with each purchase of fireworks.

15 5. The state fire marshal shall adopt rules in accordance  
16 with chapter 17A to regulate the sale and use of fireworks.

17 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 727.2F SALE TO A MINOR.

18 1. A person shall not sell fireworks to any person under  
19 twelve years of age.

20 2. A person shall not sell fireworks to any person under  
21 eighteen years of age unless that person is in the presence of  
22 a parent or guardian.

23 3. A person under eighteen years of age shall not  
24 purchase, or attempt to purchase, fireworks in violation of  
25 this section.

26 4. A person who violates this section commits a serious  
27 misdemeanor.

28 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 727.2G USE BY A MINOR.

29 1. A person shall not permit any person under eight years  
30 of age to possess or use fireworks.

31 2. A person shall not permit any person under twelve years  
32 of age to possess or use fireworks except when that person is  
33 in the presence of a parent or guardian.

34 3. A person who violates this section commits a serious  
35 misdemeanor.



1 fireworks in violation of these provisions, the person commits  
2 a serious misdemeanor. The offense by a person under 18 years  
3 of age is specifically included within the definition of  
4 offenses which constitute a delinquent act under the juvenile  
5 justice code.

6 The bill prohibits the use or possession of fireworks by a  
7 minor under eight years of age. The bill also prohibits the  
8 use or possession of fireworks by a minor 12-17 years of age  
9 unless that minor is in the presence of a parent or guardian.  
10 A person who violates these provisions commits a serious  
11 misdemeanor and the offense is included as a delinquent act  
12 under the juvenile justice code.

13 The bill also prohibits the use of fireworks near a church,  
14 hospital, mental health facility, school, where fireworks are  
15 stored or sold, or near a gasoline pump or gasoline filling  
16 station. The bill also prohibits the discharge of fireworks  
17 within or thrown from or thrown at a motor vehicle, boat, or  
18 structure or at or near any person or animal. A violation of  
19 these provisions is punishable pursuant to Code chapter 712,  
20 which deals with arson.

21 The bill restricts the sale of fireworks to the period  
22 between June 27 and July 5 of any year.

23 The bill provides that the state fire marshal shall issue  
24 permits for the sale of fireworks and adopt rules to  
25 administer the sale and use of fireworks. Also, the permits  
26 must be conspicuously displayed in the permit holder's place  
27 of business along with a sign that states the law concerning  
28 the use, sale, and possession of fireworks in this state. A  
29 copy of the law must also be included by the permit holder  
30 with each fireworks purchase.

31 The bill does not restrict the sale of signals, flares, or  
32 blank cartridges, or apply to the military, national guard, or  
33 to law enforcement officers.

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