

# Legislative Update

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Visitors crowd the second floor rotunda at the Iowa Statehouse. (Photo by The Capitol Group)

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## Ransomware Bill Approved By The House

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On a vote of 97 to 1, the House of Representatives has given its approval to a bill to criminalize the use of ransomware.

The bill defines ransomware as a computer or data contaminant, encryption, or lock that is placed or introduced without authorization into a computer, computer network, or a computer system which restricts access by an authorized person to a computer, computer data, a computer network, or a computer system in a manner that results in the person responsible for the placement or introduction of the contaminant, encryption, or lock making a demand for payment of money or other consideration to remove the contaminant, encryption, or lock.

The House also approved an amendment that made sure all airports, including those with aviation authorities, are included as entities protected by the bill.

The bill now moves on to the Senate where a similar version, Senate File 203, is ready for consideration by that chamber.

The IPAA has been working with the Senate to ensure that all airports are included in that chamber's version of the bill.

We will keep you updated on this important legislation.

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# Bills of Interest

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(HF - House File, HSB - House Study Bill, SF - Senate File, SSB - Senate Study Bill)  
(F - For, A - Against, U - Undecided/monitoring)

SF 203 (formerly SSB 1072) - Ransomware (F) - The bill defines “ransomware,” and provides that a person shall not use ransomware with the intent to cause the malfunction or interruption of the operation of, or alter, damage, or destroy, all or any part of a computer, computer network, computer control language, computer software, computer system, computer service, or computer data.

The bill also provides that a person who has suffered a specific and direct injury because of a violation of the bill may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction, and the court may award actual damages, reasonable attorney fees, and court costs. A conviction for an offense under the bill is not a prerequisite for the filing of a civil action.

On Senate debate calendar

SF 144 (formerly SSB 1016) - Laser Pointing At Aircraft (F) - This bill relates to an assault involving a laser pointed toward an aircraft. Specifically, the bill provides that it is an assault for a person to intentionally point a laser emitting a visible light beam toward an aircraft. The bill defines “aircraft” as any contrivance intended for and capable of transporting persons through the airspace. Penalties for assault range from a simple misdemeanor to a class “C” felony.

On Senate debate calendar

SSB 1085 - City and County Engine Energy Rules Preemption (U) - This bill prohibits a county or city from adopting an ordinance, motion, resolution, or amendment that limits consumer access to an energy source to power an engine or that results in the de facto prohibition of the sale or production of an energy source or the related infrastructure necessary to provide consumer access to a specific energy source within the jurisdiction of the county or city. The bill specifically includes “aviation fuel” in the list of energy sources enumerated in the bill.

Subcommittee: Klimesh, Brown, and Petersen

SSB 1077 - Commercial Solar Installations (U) - The bill prohibits a commercially owned solar panel field from installation on agricultural land unless the solar panel field is at least 150 feet from the nearest adjacent landowner and 1,200 feet from the nearest residence or livestock facility.

Approved by subcommittee with an amendment

HF 143 (formerly HSB 13) - Ransomware (F) - The bill defines “ransomware,” and provides that a person shall not use ransomware with the intent to cause the malfunction or interruption of the operation of, or alter, damage, or destroy, all or any part of a computer, computer network, computer control language, computer software, computer system, computer service, or computer data.

The bill also provides that a person who has suffered a specific and direct injury because of a violation of the bill may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction, and the court may award actual damages, reasonable attorney fees, and court costs. A conviction for an offense under the bill is not a prerequisite for the filing of a civil action.

Approved by the House 97 to 1

HSB 53 - Laser Pointing At Aircraft (F) - This bill relates to an assault involving a laser pointed toward an aircraft. Specifically, the bill provides that it is an assault for a person to intentionally point a laser emitting a visible light beam toward an aircraft. The bill defines "aircraft" as any contrivance intended for and capable of transporting persons through the airspace. Penalties for assault range from a simple misdemeanor to a class "C" felony.

Subcommittee: Dieken, Fry, Scheetz

HSB 16 - Essential Purpose For Cybersecurity (U) - This bill amends the definitions of "essential county purpose" and "essential corporate purpose" to include the acquisition, development, and improvement of information systems to protect against a cybersecurity event. The bill defines "cybersecurity event" as an event resulting in unauthorized access to, or the disruption or misuse of, an information system or of nonpublic information stored on an information system, as defined in the bill.

Subcommittee: Latham, Graber and Isenhardt