

Lindsay James voted to weaken penalties for domestic assault offenders and make it easier for violent offenders to get out on bail.

On February 2nd, 2023, James Voted Against A Bill That Strengthens Penalties For Repeat Domestic Abuse Assault Offenses By Counting Older And Out-Of-State Convictions. “An Act relating to criminal charges for domestic abuse assault. ... For the purpose of determining if a violation charged is a second or subsequent offense, deferred judgments issued pursuant to section 907.3 for violations of section 708.2 or this section, which were issued on domestic abuse assaults, and convictions or the equivalent of deferred judgments for violations in any other states under statutes substantially corresponding to this section shall be counted as previous offenses. ... Each previous violation on which conviction or deferral of judgment was entered prior to the date of the offense charged shall be considered and counted as a separate previous offense. ... An offense shall be considered a prior offense regardless of whether it was committed upon the same victim. An offense shall be considered a prior offense regardless of whether it was committed upon the same victim.” ([HF 112](#), Iowa Legislature, Passed House 77-21; [James Voted Nay](#) 2/2/23)

HF 112 Increases Charges For Repeat Domestic Abusers By Allowing Convictions More Than 12 Years Old To Count Toward Enhanced Second- Or Subsequent-Offense Classifications.

“For the purposes of this chapter, “domestic abuse assault” means an assault, as defined in section 708.1, which is domestic abuse as defined in section 236.2, subsection 2, paragraph ‘a’, ‘b’, ‘c’, or ‘d’. 2. On a first offense of domestic abuse assault, the person commits: a. A simple misdemeanor for a domestic abuse assault, except as otherwise provided. b. A serious misdemeanor, if the domestic abuse assault causes bodily injury or mental illness. c. An aggravated misdemeanor, if the domestic abuse assault is committed with the intent to inflict a serious injury upon another, or if the person uses or displays a dangerous weapon in connection with the assault. This paragraph does not apply if section 708.6 or 708.8 applies. d. An aggravated misdemeanor, if the domestic abuse assault is committed by knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of another by applying pressure to the throat or neck of the other person or by obstructing the nose or mouth of the other person. 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, on a second domestic abuse assault, a person commits: a. A serious misdemeanor, if the first offense was classified as a simple misdemeanor, and the second offense would otherwise be classified as a simple misdemeanor. b. An aggravated misdemeanor, if the first offense was classified as a simple or aggravated misdemeanor, and the second offense would otherwise be classified as a serious misdemeanor, or the first offense was classified as a serious or aggravated misdemeanor, and the second offense would otherwise be classified as a simple or serious misdemeanor. 4. On a third or subsequent offense of domestic abuse assault, a person commits a class ‘D’ felony. 5. For a domestic abuse assault committed by knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of another by applying pressure to the throat or neck of the other person or by obstructing the nose or mouth of the other person, and causing bodily injury, the person commits a class ‘D’ felony.” (Domestic Abuse Assault Penalties, [Iowa Code § 708.2A](#), Accessed 8/7/26)

According To Iowa’s Uniform Bond Schedule, A Simple Misdemeanor Has A \$300 Uniform Bond, Serious Misdemeanor Is \$1,000, Aggravated Misdemeanor Is \$2,000, And Any Class “D” Felony Is \$5,000. (Uniform Bond Schedule, [Iowa Judicial Branch](#), Accessed 8/7/26)

Uniform Bond Schedule (effective July 1, 2017)

- Any class “B” felony—\$25,000
- Any class “C” felony—\$10,000
- Any class “D” felony—\$5,000
- Aggravated misdemeanor—\$2,000
- Serious misdemeanor—\$1,000
- Simple misdemeanor—\$300
- Traffic and other scheduled violations of Iowa Code sections 805.6 through 805.16—amount set forth in the [State of Iowa Compendium of Scheduled Violations and Scheduled Fines](#).

(Uniform Bond Schedule, [Iowa Judicial Branch](#), Accessed 8/7/26)