

**Legislature - First Session - 2019**

**Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB141**

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**Chairperson: Senator Steve Lathrop**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing: January 23, 2019**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 141 is intended to create a statutory recognition that suffocation and strangulation are similar forms of assault. Current statutes treat suffocation as a third-degree domestic assault or third-degree assault (both misdemeanors as a first offense); and treat strangulation as a felony. By including suffocation in the statute for assault by strangulation, penalties are appropriately matched for two very similar crimes (can be charged as felony).

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator Wendy DeBoer