

1972. "Now it would be our intent to use the statute of purse snatching incidents. The most frequent victims in these incidents are elderly women. Although the victim may not be physically attacked or knocked down, I assure you that it is a frightening experience. There has been an increasing number of these thefts in Lincoln and reenactment of this larceny from the person statute would help curb these incidents." And with the present problems with the economics in our state and we can expect more of these things to happen. So I do feel we have to strengthen this law in order to protect these individuals. I can assure you that there is fear in the Omaha area especially of purse snatching. An incident happened in Omaha where a lady had just cashed a check and was walking in the parking lot of a shopping center and some boys drove by with a car, grabbed her purse and she had so many things of value in that purse, she hung onto her purse. They drug her along the car. She broke her hip but she maintained her purse. So these incidents have to stop and so that is why we feel that this has to be included in this statute. Now here is a letter I received from Omaha, and again it is from the County Attorneys Association, "I am writing to explain the need for the amendment to LB 347, reenactment of the statute providing for the crime of larceny from the person which was found in the law of 28-505 before revision of the Criminal Code. The penalty previously provided by the law was one to seven years. The amendment classifies larceny from the person as a Class IV felony. The maximum penalty is five years, \$10,000 or both. There is no minimum. In reenactment of larceny from the person is primarily aimed at purse snatching incidents which are frequent occurrences in Omaha and Lincoln and a growing problem in our medium sized cities. Frequently the victims are older people. Even when the purse snatcher does no violence to the person, it is a frightening experience. Unless the value of the case contents exceeds \$300 which most often is not the case, the offense is a misdemeanor. However, the victim may lose credit cards resulting in hundreds of dollars of unauthorized charges. Since the thief has the victim's identification he is often able to forge any check blanks in the purse or cash checks made payable to the victim. The consequences of the theft are far beyond the loss of the purse itself as the victim must replace all stolen identification, such as, driver's license, social security cards, credit cards and so forth. Since purse snatching can often result in violence to the victim where the lady may resist the snatcher, I believe the reenactment of the statute is appropriate." I move for the enactment of this amendment.