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FLOOR DEBATE

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effective date of the act if the current statute of limitations for the crime in question has not yet expired. This change is necessary in order to address the constitutional law issue that arises when retroactive application of changes in statutes of limitations to individuals take place where the statute has already run. You cannot then subsequently repeal it. The committee amendment also incorporates four other bills as advanced and amended by your Judiciary Committee, and I'll detail those individually. LB 943, as Senator Thompson indicated, was unanimously advanced. Section 2 of the committee amendment is otherwise denominated LB 987. It was introduced by Senator Bourne. It creates the criminal offense of strangulation. Strangulation is defined as intentionally or knowingly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of another by applying pressure on the throat or neck and is punishable by a Class IV felony. Strangulation is punishable as a Class IIIA felony if a dangerous weapon is used in the perpetration of the crime, if serious bodily injury results from the strangulation, or if the perpetrator has been previously convicted of strangulation. The committee amendment to LB 987, which is incorporated into this amendment to LB 943, removes language from the definition of strangulation that more accurately describes the act of asphyxiation. LB 987, as amended, was unanimously advanced by your Judiciary Committee. Section 3 of the committee amendment is otherwise denominated LB 670. It was introduced in 2003 by Senator Thompson. LB 670 criminalizes the use of a computer to knowingly solicit, coax, entice, or lure a child 16 years of age or younger, or a peace officer believed by a person to be a child 16 years of age or younger, to engage in illegal sexual activity. This crime is punishable as a Class III felony unless the perpetrator has previously been convicted of assault, child enticement, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or sexual assault in which it is punishable as a Class II felony. The bill also requires individuals convicted under this section to register as sex offenders pursuant to the Sex Offender Registration Act. LB 670 was also advanced unanimously by your Judiciary Committee. Section 4 of the amendment is otherwise denominated as LB 874, introduced by Senator Mossey. LB 874 expands the definition of the term "sexual contact" for purposes of sexual assault of a child to include the touching of a child with the actor's sexual