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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 385

imprint for each and every one of us. It is present in different types of body fluids, such as blood, oral swabs, sperm. It is extremely accurate. What is hoped to be accomplished by LB 385 is not just to incarcerate and treat people for longer periods of time, but that we actually would prevent these crimes, we would help solve these crimes, and at the same time, this has the ability of protecting the innocent. There is being distributed a map of the United States, and basically this map tells the whole story. There are 44 states that require DNA from all felons, that's your green area. The other states in blue collect from violent felons, plus a burglary. This is the group that we hope to catch up with, with this bill here this morning. Nebraska does not even collect from burglars or robbers, and this is the area where there is the highest correlation with rapes. It can easily be said that Nebraska now has the weakest DNA statute in the United States. Now we are just intent on taking the first step. Not only are the situations true that we just referred to on the map, but there are six states that now require DNA from certain felony arrestees--not convictions, arrestees. I think that we would want to think very long and hard before we did that and took that step. Utah even goes one step further. It requires DNA from Class A misdemeanors; again, let's just take this first and important step. The other thing that this will do, in addition to adding burglars and robbers to the violent and sex offenders that require a DNA specimen, is it will also help in identifying missing persons. I'm...frequently we still see stories of remains of people from the South Pacific that were in a plane crash in 1944 or some such time, and these are positively identified by DNA. What would occur in this case is just an expansion of the federal and state...state and national databases or specimen banks. This would include burglars and robbers that are convicted and sentenced, and there is an amendment this morning that clarifies that they are sentenced. Virginia has the oldest statute along this line. What are the benefits? More crimes would be solved. Currently, there would be 845 incarcerated people in the state of Nebraska system that would be required to obtain...from which we would obtain DNA samples. As I mentioned, Virginia and Great Britain have the greatest or broadest DNA data banks. The interesting thing is here, is that half of the criminals that commit violent crimes