

to the bracket motion. They will be passing out 1156. AM1156 deals with truth in sentencing. Truth in sentencing allows sentencing judges. It would require that to state not only the maximum and minimum terms to be served by the defendant, but also the defendant's parole eligibility date and the date of their release, assuming no good time is forfeited. For example, under current law a defendant who is sentenced to 50 years incarceration on the charge of first degree sexual assault will be released after 25 years and will be eligible for parole after serving only six months assuming he forfeits no good time. A defendant who is convicted of sexual assault of a child and receives five years sentence will be released after serving two years and six months and will be eligible for parole immediately, assuming no forfeiture of good time. This proposed amendment would enable the victim and the community to have a much clearer idea of the amount of time the defendant is likely to spend in custody. I have talked with several people on truth in sentencing and they tell me that sometimes not even the attorneys involved in a case know what the actual sentence was. I think it's time that we allow for truth in sentencing. I don't think it will be a burden. I think it will help clarify what the actual sentences are to everyone within the community so that they will eventually become more aware of the time involved in some of these cases and I ask you to vote for this amendment. This amendment also, if you notice at the top, will strike the original sections of the bill. It will strip LB 627 and this will allow us to begin with this amendment for truth in sentencing for LB 627 and I would ask you to vote favorably for this amendment and I appreciate your vote. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Witek. Before we proceed with debate I would like to call the senators' attention to the south balcony. Special guests today of Senator Avery are 45 fourth grade students from Westmont Elementary in Omaha and their teachers. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. I'll now recognize Senator Abboud followed by Senators Chambers and Lindsay. Senator Abboud. Okay, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I want to ask Senator Witek a question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Go ahead, Senator Chambers.