

HB 429 -- Robbery by Sudden Snatching

HB 429 expands the definition of sudden snatching by adding the words "or presence or from the area within the victim's reach or control" to the definition of sudden snatching (currently defined as "the taking of money or other property from the victim's person"...).

The bill analysis for CS/HB 425 (1999 Session) when the sudden snatching was created indicated that the typical purse snatching offense (prior to passage of the legislation) was prosecuted as 2nd degree misdemeanor petit theft. Convictions for the 2 sudden snatching offenses resulted in 231 persons going to prison in FY 10-11. This suggests that expanding the definition would result in an additional, indeterminate number of offenders being sentenced to prison.

FY 10-11 Sentences for sudden snatching offenses

Statute	Primary Offense	Felony Degree	Offense Severity Level	Criminal Code Lowest Permissible Sentence (in months) ¹	Maximum Sentence Under Criminal Code (Based on degree)	Number Sentenced FY 10-11 ²	Number Receiving Prison ²	Percent Receiving Prison	Mean Sentence Length (in months)
812.131(2)(a)	SUDDEN SNATCH WITH FIREARM OR DEADLY WEAPON	2	7	21	15 years	36	20	56.0%	58.1
812.131(2)(b)	SUDDEN SNATCH NO WEAPON	3	5	Non-prison	5 years	552	211	38.2%	30.7

¹ Criminal Code Lowest Permissible Sentence assumes no additional or prior offenses and is based on offense severity level.

² Adjusted for non-compliance in the completion of scoresheets. Per Department of Corrections report entitled, "Sentencing Scoresheet Compliance Report July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011", compliance is about 69