

CHAPTER 86.

[H. F. No. 104.]

AN ACT TO AMEND THE PENAL CODE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA BY ADDING TO TITLE NINE (IX) OF SAID PENAL CODE, CHAPTER NINE (IX), RELATING TO SLANDER OF FEMALES.

Penal Code, adding to Title 9.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

SECTION 1. That title nine (IX) of the Penal Code of the state of Minnesota be and the same hereby is amended by adding to said title nine (IX) another and further chapter, to be known as chapter nine (IX) of said title nine (IX), and to read as follows:

"CHAPTER IX.

"SLANDER OF FEMALES.

"Section 221A. *Slander of Females Defined.*—A person who, in the presence and hearing of another, other than the female slandered, whether such female be present or not, maliciously speaks of or concerning any female of the age of twelve (12) years or upwards, not a public prostitute, any false or defamatory words or language, which injures or impairs the character of such female for virtue or chastity, and which exposes such female to hatred, contempt or ridicule, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Slander of females a misdemeanor.

"Sec. 221B. Any slander mentioned in the preceding section is to be deemed malicious if no justification therefor is shown, and is justified when the language charged as slanderous, false or defamatory is true and was spoken for good motives and for justifiable ends.

When it may be justified.

"Sec. 221C. No conviction can be had under any of the provisions of this chapter upon the testimony of the female slandered, unsupported by other evidence, but must be proven by the evidence of at least two (2) persons, other than such female, who heard and understood the language charged as slanderous, or by the admissions of the defendant."

Testimony necessary to convict.

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 20, 1891.