



Support SB 189

No Time Limit to Prosecute Child Sex Abuse

Status: House Judiciary – Civil Committee; Passed Senate 54-0

Sponsors: (Sen. Bennett (D-52)); Rep. Mussman (D), Chapa LaVia (D), Gordon-Booth (D), Costello (D), Andersson (R), Walsh (D), Flowers (D), Hoffman (D), Stuart (D), Moylan (D), McDermed (R), Hurley (D), Fine (D), Wehrli (R)

What Does the Bill Do?

SB 189 gives victims who were under age 18 at the time of the crime an unlimited amount of time to seek justice for

- criminal sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual assault,
- predatory criminal sexual assault of a child,
- aggravated criminal sexual abuse, and
- felony criminal sexual abuse.

There is already an unlimited SOL for these crimes,* but only when

- there is corroborating physical evidence, or
- a mandated reporter failed to report to DCFS.

Victims of sexual crimes should not be denied the chance to seek justice

- Making these crimes known to the public protects children.
- Prosecutors still decide whether there is enough evidence to prosecute the case.
- Evidence of child sexual abuse may still exist many years after the crime. Evidence may come in forms beyond physical evidence such as victim's testimony, eyewitness accounts, recordings, letters, emails and journals."
- *These changes are not retroactive and do not revive cases that cannot currently be prosecuted.*

Why Do Victims of these Crimes Need More Time to Come Forward?

- Most child victims are abused by people they know.
- Offenders often use coercion/guilt tactics to prevent the reporting of abuse.
- Some of the effects of childhood sexual abuse are not obvious until the victim is an adult with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, low self-esteem, substance abuse problems, and/or mental health disorders.

*The criminal statute of limitations was removed for these sex crimes against minors by P.A. 98-379, eff. Jan. 1, 2014, but the two qualifiers were included in the Public Act.

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