

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 237 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY BISHOP, MCGEEHAN, O'BRIEN, HESS, RAPP, CAUSER,  
NEILSON, BOBACK, BROWNLEE, SWANGER, V. BROWN, KORTZ,  
MARSHALL, ROEBUCK, SANTARSIERO, FARINA, HAHN, DAVIS, MATZIE,  
DAVIDSON, ROZZI, MAHONEY, P. DALEY, MILNE, STEVENSON, KINSEY,  
YOUNGBLOOD, DEASY, M. DALEY AND WATERS, JANUARY 24, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, JANUARY 24, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the  
2 Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in limitation of time,  
3 further providing for unlimited time to bring civil actions,  
4 for tolling limitations of civil actions, for unlimited time  
5 to bring criminal actions and for limitation of serious  
6 criminal actions.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 5531 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania  
10 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a paragraph to read:  
11 § 5531. No limitation.

12 The following actions and proceedings may be commenced at any  
13 time notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter  
14 except section 5521 (relating to limitations on foreign claims):

15 \* \* \*

16 (4) An action for childhood sexual abuse. As used in  
17 this paragraph, the following words and phrases shall have  
18 the following meanings:

1 "Childhood sexual abuse." Includes the following:

2 (i) Any of the following sexual activities between a  
3 minor and an adult, if the individual bringing the civil  
4 action engaged in the activity as a result of forcible  
5 compulsion or by threat of forcible compulsion which  
6 would prevent resistance by a person of reasonable  
7 resolution:

8 (A) Sexual intercourse, which includes  
9 penetration, however slight, of any body part or  
10 object into the sex organ of another.

11 (B) Deviate sexual intercourse, which includes  
12 sexual intercourse per os or per anus.

13 (C) Indecent contact, which includes any  
14 touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of the  
15 person for the purpose of arousing or gratifying  
16 sexual desire in either person.

17 (D) An action which constitutes an offense under  
18 any of the following provisions of Title 18 (relating  
19 to crimes and offenses):

20 Section 3121 (relating to rape).

21 Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual  
22 assault).

23 Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate  
24 sexual intercourse).

25 Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).

26 Section 3124.2 (relating to institutional  
27 sexual assault).

28 Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent  
29 assault).

30 Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault).

1                   Section 3127 (relating to indecent exposure).

2                   Section 4302 (relating to incest).

3                   Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare  
4                   of children).

5                   Section 6301 (relating to corruption of  
6                   minors).

7                   Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of  
8                   children).

9                   "Forcible compulsion." As defined in 18 Pa.C.S. § 3101  
10                   (relating to definitions).

11       Section 2. Section 5533(b)(2) of Title 42 is amended to  
12       read:

13       § 5533. Infancy, insanity or imprisonment.

14               \* \* \*

15       (b) Infancy.--

16               \* \* \*

17               [(2) (i) If an individual entitled to bring a civil  
18               action arising from childhood sexual abuse is under 18  
19               years of age at the time the cause of action accrues, the  
20               individual shall have a period of 12 years after  
21               attaining 18 years of age in which to commence an action  
22               for damages regardless of whether the individual files a  
23               criminal complaint regarding the childhood sexual abuse.

24               (ii) For the purposes of this paragraph, the term  
25               "childhood sexual abuse" shall include, but not be  
26               limited to, the following sexual activities between a  
27               minor and an adult, provided that the individual bringing  
28               the civil action engaged in such activities as a result  
29               of forcible compulsion or by threat of forcible  
30               compulsion which would prevent resistance by a person of

reasonable resolution:

(A) sexual intercourse, which includes penetration, however slight, of any body part or object into the sex organ of another;

(B) deviate sexual intercourse, which includes sexual intercourse per os or per anus; and

(C) indecent contact, which includes any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of the person for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire in either person.

(iii) For purposes of this paragraph, "forcible compulsion" shall have the meaning given to it in 18 Pa.C.S. § 3101 (relating to definitions).]

Section 3. Section 5551 of Title 42 is amended by adding a paragraph to read:

§ 5551. No limitation applicable.

A prosecution for the following offenses may be commenced at any time:

\* \* \*

(7) An offense under any of the following provisions of Title 18 (relating to crimes and offenses) if the victim is under 18 years of age:

Section 3121 (relating to rape).

Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault).

Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse).

Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).

Section 3124.2 (relating to institutional sexual assault).

1           Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent sexual  
2           assault).

3           Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault).

4           Section 3127 (relating to indecent exposure).

5           Section 4302 (relating to incest).

6           Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare of  
7           children).

8           Section 6301 (relating to corruption of minors).

9           Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of children).

10          Section 4.   Section 5552(b.1), (c)(3) and (c.1) of Title 42  
11          are amended to read:

12          § 5552.   Other offenses.

13                 \* \* \*

14          (b.1)   Major sexual offenses.--[A] Except as set forth in  
15          section 5551(7) (relating to no limitation applicable), a  
16          prosecution for any of the following offenses under Title 18  
17          must be commenced within 12 years after it is committed:

18                 Section 3121 (relating to rape).

19                 Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault).

20                 Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual  
21          intercourse).

22                 Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).

23                 Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault).

24                 Section 4302 (relating to incest).

25                 [Section 6312 (relating to sexual abuse of children).]

26          (c)   Exceptions.--If the period prescribed in subsection (a),  
27          (b) or (b.1) has expired, a prosecution may nevertheless be  
28          commenced for:

29                 \* \* \*

30                 [(3)   Any sexual offense committed against a minor who is

1 less than 18 years of age any time up to the later of the  
2 period of limitation provided by law after the minor has  
3 reached 18 years of age or the date the minor reaches 50  
4 years of age. As used in this paragraph, the term "sexual  
5 offense" means a crime under the following provisions of  
6 Title 18 (relating to crimes and offenses):

7 Section 3121 (relating to rape).

8 Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual  
9 assault).

10 Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual  
11 intercourse).

12 Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).

13 Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent  
14 assault).

15 Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault).

16 Section 3127 (relating to indecent exposure).

17 Section 4302 (relating to incest).

18 Section 4304 (relating to endangering welfare of  
19 children).

20 Section 6301 (relating to corruption of minors).

21 Section 6312(b) (relating to sexual abuse of  
22 children).

23 Section 6320 (relating to sexual exploitation of  
24 children).]

25 \* \* \*

26 (c.1) Genetic identification evidence.--Notwithstanding any  
27 provision of law to the contrary, if evidence of [a misdemeanor  
28 sexual] an offense [set forth in subsection (c)(3)] under 18  
29 Pa.C.S. § 3126 (relating to indecent assault) or 3127 (relating  
30 to indecent exposure) or a felony offense is obtained containing

1 human deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) which is subsequently used to  
2 identify an otherwise unidentified individual as the perpetrator  
3 of the offense, the prosecution of the offense may be commenced  
4 within the period of limitations provided for the offense or one  
5 year after the identity of the individual is determined,  
6 whichever is later.

7 \* \* \*

8 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.