

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY**

BILL NO. H1732

TITLE: An Act amending statute of limitations relating to civil rights actions and criminal prosecutions for sexual assault and rape of a child

SPONSOR: Rep. Kenneth I. Gordon

COSPONSOR(S): Rep. Natalie M. Blais

HEARING DATE: June 17, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: H1536 (2023-2024)
H1617(2021-2022)
H3309 (2019-2020)
H3060 (2017-2018)

SENATE BILL: S1165 (Lovely)

CURRENT LAW: Section 4C of Chapter 260 of the General Laws sets the statute of limitations for tort actions alleging sexual abuse of a minor at 35 years after the acts alleged to have caused the injury or within 7 years from the time the victim discovered or reasonably should have discovered that an emotional or psychological injury was caused by the alleged act. This time limit is tolled for a child until they reach 18 years of age.

Section 4C ½ of Chapter 260 sets the statute of limitations for tort actions alleging negligent supervision or conduct causing or contributing to the sexual abuse of a minor at 35 years after the acts alleged to have caused the injury or within 7 years from the time the victim discovered or reasonably should have discovered that an emotional or psychological injury was caused by the alleged act. This time limit is tolled for a child until they reach 18 years of age.

Section 5B of Chapter 260 requires civil actions for civil rights violations be commenced within 3 years after the cause of action accrues.

Section 63 of Chapter 277 sets the statutes of limitations for sexual offenses involving minors at 27 years after the commission of such offense unless supported by independent evidence that corroborates

the victim's allegation. It further suspends the statute of limitations for enhanced indecent assault crimes with a victim under 16 years old until the victim turns 16 or the violation is reported to law enforcement.

BILL SUMMARY:

Section 1 – Adds to Section 5B of Chapter 260 that actions alleging employment, housing and other discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, age, ancestry or handicap are included within tort actions for civil rights violations. It further adds language stating that any action brought under Title IX or based on sexual assault or abuse have statutes of limitation governed by the provisions of Section 4C ½ of Chapter 260.

Section 2 – Adds to Section 63 of Chapter 277 that an action alleging indecent assault and battery or rape on a victim under 18 years of age may be filed at any time after the commission of the offense.