

3785

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

March 3, 2011

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Introduced by Sen. HASSELL-THOMPSON -- read twice and ordered printed,  
and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to the timeli-  
ness of prosecutions for certain sex offenses; and to amend the civil  
practice law and rules, in relation to the timeliness for commencing  
certain civil actions related to sex offenses

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-  
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subdivision 3 of section 30.10 of the  
2     criminal procedure law, as separately amended by chapters 3 and 320 of  
3     the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:  
4     (f) For purposes of a prosecution involving a sexual offense as  
5     defined in article one hundred thirty of the penal law, other than a  
6     sexual offense delineated in paragraph (a) of subdivision two of this  
7     section, committed against a child less than eighteen years of age,  
8     incest in the first, second or third degree as defined in sections  
9     255.27, 255.26 and 255.25 of the penal law committed against a child  
10    less than eighteen years of age, or use of a child in a sexual perform-  
11    ance as defined in section 263.05 of the penal law, the period of limi-  
12    tation shall not begin to run until the child has reached the age of  
13    [eighteen] TWENTY-THREE or the offense is reported to a law enforcement  
14    agency or statewide central register of child abuse and maltreatment,  
15    whichever occurs earlier.  
16    S 2. The opening paragraph of section 208 of the civil practice law  
17    and rules is designated subdivision (a) and a new subdivision (b) is  
18    added to read as follows:  
19    (B) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBDIVISION (A) OF THIS SECTION,  
20    WITH RESPECT TO ALL CIVIL CLAIMS OR CAUSES OF ACTION BROUGHT BY ANY  
21    PERSON FOR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL OR OTHER INJURY OR CONDITION SUFFERED  
22    AS A RESULT OF CONDUCT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A SEXUAL OFFENSE AS  
23    DEFINED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, INCEST AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
2 255.25, 255.26 OR 255.27 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS  
3 THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, OR THE USE OF A CHILD IN A SEXUAL PERFORM-  
4 ANCE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 263.05 OF THE PENAL LAW, OR A PREDECESSOR  
5 STATUTE THAT PROHIBITED SUCH CONDUCT AT THE TIME OF THE ACT, WHICH  
6 CONDUCT WAS COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE,  
7 THE TIME WITHIN WHICH THE ACTION MUST BE COMMENCED SHALL BE EXTENDED TO  
8 FIVE YEARS AFTER THE PERSON REACHES THE AGE OF TWENTY-THREE YEARS.

9 S 3. The civil practice law and rules is amended by adding a new  
10 section 3012-b to read as follows:

11 S 3012-B. CERTAIN CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE CASES; CERTIFICATE OF MERIT. (A)  
12 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW WHICH IMPOSES A PERIOD OF LIMITA-  
13 TION TO THE CONTRARY, EVERY CIVIL CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION BROUGHT BY A  
14 PERSON FOR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR OTHER INJURY OR CONDITION  
15 SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF CONDUCT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A SEXUAL OFFENSE  
16 AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED  
17 AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, INCEST AS DEFINED IN  
18 SECTION 255.25, 255.26 OR 255.27 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A  
19 CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, OR THE USE OF A CHILD IN A SEXUAL  
20 PERFORMANCE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 263.05 OF THE PENAL LAW, OR A PREDE-  
21 CESSOR STATUTE THAT PROHIBITED SUCH CONDUCT AT THE TIME OF THE ACT,  
22 WHICH CONDUCT WAS COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF  
23 AGE, WHICH IS BARRED AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION BECAUSE  
24 THE APPLICABLE PERIOD OF LIMITATION HAS EXPIRED IS HEREBY REVIVED, AND  
25 ACTION THEREON MAY BE COMMENCED PROVIDED THAT SUCH ACTION IS COMMENCED  
26 WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

27 (A-1) ANY CIVIL CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION BROUGHT PURSUANT TO SUBDIVI-  
28 SION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY ONLY BE COMMENCED FOR CONDUCT COMMITTED  
29 AGAINST SUCH CHILD FORTY YEARS OR LESS BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
30 SECTION OR COMMENCED WITHIN FORTY YEARS OF SUCH CHILD REACHING THE AGE  
31 OF EIGHTEEN YEARS.

32 (B) IN ANY ACTION BROUGHT PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION (A) OF THIS SECTION  
33 FOR PHYSICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR OTHER INJURY OR CONDITION SUFFERED AS A  
34 RESULT OF CONDUCT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A SEXUAL OFFENSE AS DESCRIBED  
35 IN SUBDIVISION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMPLAINT SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED  
36 BY A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AS DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION (C) OF THIS  
37 SECTION.

38 (C) A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FILED PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION (B) OF THIS  
39 SECTION SHALL BE FILED BY THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF AND SHALL  
40 CONTAIN A NOTARIZED STATEMENT BY A QUALIFIED PSYCHIATRIST, AS DEFINED IN  
41 SECTION 9.01 OF THE MENTAL HYGIENE LAW, A PSYCHOLOGIST AS LICENSED  
42 PURSUANT TO ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-THREE OF THE EDUCATION LAW, OR A  
43 PERSON IN THE PRACTICE OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING, AS DEFINED IN SUBDI-  
44 VISION ONE OF SECTION EIGHTY-FOUR HUNDRED TWO OF THE EDUCATION LAW, WHO  
45 IS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE RELEVANT FACTS AND ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE  
46 PARTICULAR ACTION, AND STATES IN REASONABLE DETAIL THE FACTS AND OPIN-  
47 IONS THAT THE PERSON HAS RELIED UPON FOR CONCLUDING THAT THERE IS A  
48 REASONABLE BASIS TO BELIEVE THAT THE PLAINTIFF HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO ONE  
49 OR MORE ACTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION  
50 (A) OF THIS SECTION. THE PERSON PROVIDING SUCH STATEMENT MAY NOT BE A  
51 PARTY TO THE LITIGATION.

52 (D) WHERE A CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION, A SINGLE  
53 CERTIFICATE SHALL BE FILED FOR EACH ACTION, EVEN IF MORE THAN ONE  
54 DEFENDANT HAS BEEN NAMED IN THE COMPLAINT OR IS SUBSEQUENTLY NAMED.

55 S 4. The civil practice law and rules is amended by adding a new  
56 section 214-f to read as follows:

1 S 214-F. ACTION BY VICTIM OF CONDUCT CONSTITUTING CERTAIN SEXUAL  
2 OFFENSES AND NOTICE OF CLAIM AS CONDITION PRECEDENT. SECTIONS FIFTY-E  
3 AND FIFTY-I OF THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW, SECTION THIRTY-EIGHT HUNDRED  
4 THIRTEEN OF THE EDUCATION LAW AND THE PROVISIONS OF ANY GENERAL, SPECIAL  
5 OR LOCAL LAW OR CHARTER REQUIRING AS A CONDITION PRECEDENT TO COMMENCE-  
6 MENT OF AN ACTION OR SPECIAL PROCEEDING THAT A NOTICE OF A CLAIM BE  
7 FILED OR PRESENTED WITHIN A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME AFTER THE CLAIM OR  
8 ACTION OR ACTION ACCRUED, SHALL NOT APPLY TO ANY CLAIM MADE FOR PHYS-  
9 ICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL, OR OTHER INJURY OR CONDITION SUFFERED AS A RESULT  
10 OF CONDUCT OF A DEFENDANT WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE A SEXUAL OFFENSE AS  
11 DEFINED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST  
12 A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, INCEST AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
13 255.25, 255.26, OR 255.27 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD  
14 LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, OR THE USE OF A CHILD IN A SEXUAL  
15 PERFORMANCE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 263.05 OF THE PENAL LAW COMMITTED  
16 AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

17 S 5. The provisions of this act shall be severable, and if any clause,  
18 sentence, paragraph, subdivision or part of this act shall be adjudged  
19 by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment  
20 shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall  
21 be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdi-  
22 vision or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which  
23 such judgment shall have been rendered.

24 S 6. This act shall take effect immediately.