

2393

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

January 18, 2011

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Introduced by M. of A. PRETLOW, LATIMER -- read once and referred to the  
Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the criminal procedure law, the penal law, the social  
services law, and the civil practice law and rules, in relation to  
enacting the Child Sexual Abuse Reform Act; providing for the elimi-  
nation and extending of certain statutes of limitations related to  
sexual offenses against children, the expansion of reporting require-  
ments in cases of such offenses, and the expansion of the central  
child abuse and maltreatment register; and providing for the repeal of  
certain provisions upon expiration thereof

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

1     Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Child  
2     Sexual Abuse Reform Act".  
3     S 2. Subdivision 3 of section 30.10 of the criminal procedure law is  
4     amended by adding a new paragraph (h) to read as follows:  
5     (H) A PROSECUTION FOR THE OFFENSE OF HINDERING PROSECUTION IN THE  
6     THIRD DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 205.55 OF THE PENAL LAW, HINDERING  
7     PROSECUTION IN THE SECOND DEGREE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 205.60 OF THE  
8     PENAL LAW, AND HINDERING PROSECUTION IN THE FIRST DEGREE AS DEFINED IN  
9     SECTION 205.65 OF THE PENAL LAW, WHERE SUCH OFFENSE INVOLVES A SEXUAL  
10    OFFENSE AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THE PENAL LAW WHICH  
11    IS COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, INCEST AS  
12    DEFINED IN ARTICLE TWO HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE OF THE PENAL LAW WHICH IS  
13    COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, OR USE OF A  
14    CHILD IN A SEXUAL PERFORMANCE AS DEFINED IN SECTION 263.05 OF THE PENAL  
15    LAW, MAY BE COMMENCED AT ANY TIME.  
16    S 3. Subdivision 7 of section 10.00 of the penal law, as amended by  
17    chapter 791 of the laws of 1967, is amended to read as follows:

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

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1 7. "Person" means a human being, and where appropriate, a public or  
2 private corporation, an unincorporated association, a partnership, A  
3 NONPROFIT CORPORATION, a government or a governmental instrumentality.

4 S 4. Section 20.00 of the penal law is amended to read as follows:

5 S 20.00 Criminal liability for conduct of another.

6 When one person engages in conduct which constitutes an offense,  
7 another person is criminally liable for such conduct when, acting with  
8 the mental culpability required for the commission thereof, he OR SHE  
9 solicits, requests, commands, importunes, or intentionally aids such  
10 person to engage in such conduct OR, FOR AN OFFENSE LISTED IN ARTICLE  
11 ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THIS CHAPTER WHICH IS COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD  
12 LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE, AFTER THE COMMISSION OF THE OFFENSE HE  
13 OR SHE CONCEALS OR HINDERS THE DISCOVERY OF THE OFFENSE OR EVIDENCE OF  
14 THE OFFENSE.

15 S 5. Paragraph (h) of subdivision 3 of section 130.05 of the penal  
16 law, as amended by chapter 264 of the laws of 2003, is amended to read  
17 as follows:

18 (h) a client or patient and the actor is a health care provider [or],  
19 mental health care provider OR ANYONE REPRESENTING HIMSELF OR HERSELF AS  
20 A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY WHO PROVIDES HEALTH CARE OR MENTAL HEALTH CARE  
21 SERVICES charged with rape in the third degree as defined in section  
22 130.25, criminal sexual act in the third degree as defined in section  
23 130.40, aggravated sexual abuse in the fourth degree as defined in  
24 section 130.65-a, or sexual abuse in the third degree as defined in  
25 section 130.55, and the act of sexual conduct occurs during a treatment  
26 session, consultation, interview, or examination.

27 S 6. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 260.09 to read  
28 as follows:

29 S 260.09 ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD IN THE FIRST DEGREE.

30 A PERSON IS GUILTY OF ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD IN THE FIRST  
31 DEGREE WHEN HE OR SHE COMMITS CONDUCT WHICH IS INJURIOUS TO THE PHYS-  
32 ICAL, MENTAL OR MORAL WELFARE OF A CHILD LESS THAN SEVENTEEN YEARS OF  
33 AGE AND VIOLATES ANY SECTION OF ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF THIS CHAP-  
34 TER OR SECTION 263.05 OF THIS TITLE.

35 ENDANGERING THE WELFARE OF A CHILD IN THE FIRST DEGREE IS A CLASS E  
36 FELONY.

37 S 7. The section heading, the opening paragraph and the closing para-  
38 graph of section 260.10 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 447 of  
39 the laws of 2010, are amended to read as follows:

40 Endangering the welfare of a child IN THE SECOND DEGREE.

41 A person is guilty of endangering the welfare of a child IN THE SECOND  
42 DEGREE when:

43 Endangering the welfare of a child IN THE SECOND DEGREE is a class A  
44 misdemeanor.

45 S 8. Paragraph c of subdivision 5 of section 120.40 of the penal law,  
46 as added by chapter 635 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as  
47 follows:

48 c. assault in the third degree, as defined in section 120.00; menacing  
49 in the first degree, as defined in section 120.13; menacing in the  
50 second degree, as defined in section 120.14; coercion in the first  
51 degree, as defined in section 135.65; coercion in the second degree, as  
52 defined in section 135.60; aggravated harassment in the second degree,  
53 as defined in section 240.30; harassment in the first degree, as defined  
54 in section 240.25; menacing in the third degree, as defined in section  
55 120.15; criminal mischief in the third degree, as defined in section  
56 145.05; criminal mischief in the second degree, as defined in section

1 145.10[,]; criminal mischief in the first degree, as defined in section  
2 145.12; criminal tampering in the first degree, as defined in section  
3 145.20; arson in the fourth degree, as defined in section 150.05; arson  
4 in the third degree, as defined in section 150.10; criminal contempt in  
5 the first degree, as defined in section 215.51; ENDANGERING THE WELFARE  
6 OF A CHILD IN THE FIRST DEGREE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 260.09; endanger-  
7 ing the welfare of a child IN THE SECOND DEGREE, as defined in section  
8 260.10; or

9 S 9. Section 260.15 of the penal law, as amended by chapter 447 of the  
10 laws of 2010, is amended to read as follows:

11 S 260.15 Endangering the welfare of a child; defense.

12 In any prosecution for endangering the welfare of a child IN THE FIRST  
13 OR SECOND DEGREE, pursuant to section 260.09 OR 260.10 of this article,  
14 based upon an alleged failure or refusal to provide proper medical care  
15 or treatment to an ill child, it is an affirmative defense that the  
16 defendant (a) is a parent, guardian or other person legally charged with  
17 the care or custody of such child; and (b) is a member or adherent of an  
18 organized church or religious group the tenets of which prescribe prayer  
19 as the principal treatment for illness; and (c) treated or caused such  
20 ill child to be treated in accordance with such tenets.

21 S 10. Paragraph (c) of subdivision 2 of section 422 of the social  
22 services law, as added by chapter 717 of the laws of 1986, is amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 (c) Whenever a telephone call to the statewide central register  
25 described in this section is received by the [department] OFFICE OF  
26 CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES, and [the department] SUCH OFFICE finds  
27 that the person allegedly responsible for abuse or maltreatment of a  
28 child cannot be a subject of a report as defined in subdivision four of  
29 section four hundred twelve of this [chapter] TITLE, but believes that  
30 the alleged acts or circumstances against a child described in the tele-  
31 phone call may constitute a crime or an immediate threat to the child's  
32 health or safety, [the department] SUCH OFFICE shall: (1) convey by the  
33 most expedient means available the information contained in such tele-  
34 phone call to the appropriate law enforcement agency, district attorney  
35 or other public official empowered to provide necessary aid or assist-  
36 ance AND, (2) INCLUDE SUCH INDIVIDUALS IN THE STATEWIDE CENTRAL REGISTER  
37 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBDIVISION THREE OF THIS  
38 SECTION, AND MAKE SUCH INFORMATION ACCESSIBLE PURSUANT TO SECTION FOUR  
39 HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR-A OF THIS TITLE. THE COMMISSIONER OF THE OFFICE OF  
40 CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES SHALL PROMULGATE ANY ADDITIONAL RULES AND  
41 REGULATIONS HE OR SHE DEEMS NECESSARY IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

42 S 11. Section 208 of the civil practice law and rules, as amended by  
43 chapter 485 of the laws of 1986, is amended to read as follows:

44 S 208. Infancy, insanity. If a person entitled to commence an action  
45 is under a disability because of infancy or insanity at the time the  
46 cause of action accrues, and the time otherwise limited for commencing  
47 the action is three years or more and expires no later than three years  
48 after the disability ceases, or the person under the disability dies,  
49 the time within which the action must be commenced shall be extended to  
50 three years after the disability ceases or the person under the disabili-  
51 ty dies, whichever event first occurs UNLESS SUCH ACTION IS FOR SEXUAL  
52 ASSAULT UPON A CHILD UNDER ANY SECTION OF ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF  
53 THE PENAL LAW, THEN SUCH ACTION MAY BE COMMENCED UP TO SIX YEARS AFTER  
54 THE DISABILITY CEASES OR THE PERSON UNDER THE DISABILITY DIES, WHICHEVER  
55 EVENT FIRST OCCURS; if the time otherwise limited is less than three  
56 years, the time shall be extended by the period of disability. The time

1 within which the action must be commenced shall not be extended by this  
2 provision beyond ten years after the cause of action accrues, except, in  
3 any action other than for medical, dental or podiatric malpractice,  
4 where the person was under a disability due to infancy. This section  
5 shall not apply to an action to recover a penalty or forfeiture, or  
6 against a sheriff or other officer for an escape.

7 S 12. The civil practice law and rules is amended by adding a new  
8 section 213-d to read as follows:

9 S 213-D. ACTIONS FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT OR ABUSE OF AN INFANT. NOTWITH-  
10 STANDING ANY PROVISION OF LAW TO THE CONTRARY, ANY CAUSE OF ACTION OF  
11 PHYSICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY SUSTAINED BY A PERSON UNDER EIGHTEEN  
12 YEARS OF AGE AS A RESULT OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT OR ABUSE, WHICH IS BARRED  
13 BECAUSE THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS HAS EXPIRED, IS REVIVED, AND AN  
14 ACTION THEREON MAY BE COMMENCED WITHIN THREE YEARS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE  
15 OF THIS SECTION. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, SEXUAL ASSAULT OR  
16 ABUSE SHALL BE A SEX OFFENSE AS DEFINED UNDER ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY  
17 OF THE PENAL LAW OR A PREDECESSOR STATUTE AT THE TIME OF THE ASSAULT OR  
18 ABUSE. ANY SUCH CAUSE OF ACTION PREVIOUSLY DISMISSED BECAUSE OF THE  
19 STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS MAY BE BROUGHT UNDER THIS SECTION NOTWITHSTANDING  
20 SUCH DISMISSAL. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE APPLICABLE TO  
21 ANY CIVIL ACTION GOVERNED BY THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS OF ANOTHER  
22 JURISDICTION. ANY CAUSE OF ACTION FOR DAMAGES ARISING UNDER THIS SECTION  
23 SHALL NOT INCLUDE, AS PART OF THE RESOLUTION, A CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSE  
24 OR AGREEMENT AS A MATTER OF PUBLIC POLICY.

25 S 13. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 4 of section 30.10 of the criminal  
26 procedure law is amended to read as follows:

27 (a) Any period following the commission of the offense during which  
28 (i) the defendant was continuously outside this state or (ii) the where-  
29 abouts of the defendant were continuously unknown and continuously unas-  
30 certainable by the exercise of reasonable diligence. However, in no  
31 event shall the period of limitation be extended by more than five years  
32 beyond the period otherwise applicable under subdivision two, EXCEPT  
33 THAT AN ACTION FOR AN OFFENSE LISTED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY OF  
34 THE PENAL LAW WHICH IS COMMITTED AGAINST A CHILD LESS THAN EIGHTEEN  
35 YEARS OF AGE MAY BE COMMENCED AT ANY TIME.

36 S 14. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall  
37 have become a law; provided, however, that section 213-d of the civil  
38 practice law and rules, as added by section twelve of this act, shall  
39 expire and be deemed repealed three years after the effective date of  
40 this act.