

HB52 INTRODUCED



1 HB52
2 V7WTDPV-1
3 By Representative Hollis
4 RFD: Children and Senior Advocacy
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26
6 PFD: 05-Nov-25

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4 SYNOPSIS:

5 Under existing law, a civil action based on a
6 sex offense committed against an individual under 19
7 years of age must be brought within six years of that
8 individual's 19th birthday, or the action is
9 time-barred.

10 This bill would revive time-barred civil claims
11 involving a sex offense against a minor for a period of
12 10 years.

13 This bill would require the Attorney General to
14 conduct an informational campaign about the revived
15 period to bring a claim.

16 This bill would prohibit any entity from
17 discriminating against an individual who brings a claim
18 under this act.

19 This bill would also specify that the
20 legislation is contingent on the ratification of a
21 constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to
22 revive time-barred rights and remedies relating to
23 sexual abuse of a minor.

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26 A BILL
27 TO BE ENTITLED
28 AN ACT



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Relating to sexual abuse of a minor; to revive certain time-barred civil claims for sex offenses committed against a minor for a period of 10 years; to require the Attorney General to conduct a public awareness campaign; to prohibit certain entities from discriminating against an individual who brings a claim under this act; and to specify that the act is contingent on the ratification of a constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to revive time-barred rights and remedies relating to sexual abuse of a minor.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as The Light of Justice Act.

Section 2. (a) Notwithstanding Section 6-2-8, Code of Alabama 1975, any civil claim: (i) for damages resulting from an injury arising from a sex offense as described in Section 15-20A-5, Code of Alabama 1975; (ii) for which the victim of the sex offense was under 19 years of age at the time the offense occurred; and (iii) which was previously time-barred, is revived and may be commenced within 10 years of the effective date of this act.

(b) A claim described in subsection (a) may be brought against both of the following:

(1) The individual alleged to have committed the sex offense.

(2) Any entity or organization entrusted with the well-being of minors, the officers or employees of which knew or should have known of the sexual abuse which is the subject



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57 of the claim and failed to take reasonable steps to prevent
58 it. This subdivision includes, but is not limited to,
59 religious institutions, private academic institutions, health
60 care providers, social service agencies, and youth
61 organizations.

62 (c) The Attorney General shall develop and implement a
63 public awareness campaign to inform survivors of sexual abuse
64 of their rights under this act, including the revived time
65 period to bring an action under subsection (a) and resources
66 to assist survivors in pursuing those claims.

67 (d) No employer, institution, or other entity may
68 retaliate against any individual for filing a claim under this
69 act.

70 Section 3. This act shall become effective on January
71 1, 2027, contingent on the ratification of an amendment to the
72 Constitution of Alabama of 2022, proposed in the 2026 Regular
73 Session, authorizing the Legislature to revive rights and
74 remedies relating to sexual abuse of a minor.