

HB 3632 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

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Meeting Dates: 6/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases the time in which certain crimes may be prosecuted, from 12 years to 20 years, or, if the victim was under age 18 at the time of the crime, when the victim turns 30, whichever is later. Applies change to the following crimes: Rape in the First Degree, Sodomy in the First Degree, Unlawful Sexual Penetration in the First Degree, and Sexual Abuse in the First Degree. Makes the change applicable to offenses committed at any time, unless the time limitation has already passed before the measure becomes effective on Jan. 1, 2024.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

HOUSE VOTE: Ayes, 52; Nays, 0

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The current statute of limitations for sex abuse offenses in the first degree is 12 years after the commission of the crime or if the victim of the crime was under 18 years of age, then any time before the victim turns 30. The statute of limitations operates as the time period someone can be charged with a crime. In 2019, New York increased the statute of limitations for certain sex offenses to 20 years. Washington's statute of limitations for certain sex offenses is also 20 years and California removed its statute of limitations for serious sex offenses in 2016.

House Bill 3632 increases the statute of limitations from 12 years to 20 years for sex abuse offenses in the first degree and it applies to offenses committed before, on or after the effective date of the Act, but does not apply to those offenses if the statute of limitations expired before the effective date of the Act.