

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act Regarding the Reporting of Sexual Abuse

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 14 MRSA §752-C, sub-§3 is enacted to read:

3. Revival of time-barred actions; 2-year window. Notwithstanding Public Law 1999, chapter 639, section 2, a claim for damages based upon a sexual act toward a minor that was barred as of August 11, 2000 solely because the applicable statute of limitations had expired is revived and in that case an action may be commenced within 2 years of January 1, 2008.

SUMMARY

This bill is modeled on the California statute that revived sexual abuse suits that were time-barred by creating a one-year window during which potential plaintiffs were able to file civil suits against alleged perpetrators of the sexual abuse.

This bill creates a 2-year window for claims for which the statute of limitations had expired at the time the current law, which imposes no statute of limitations, took effect: August 11, 2000. Starting January 1, 2008, persons who were victims of child sexual abuse have the opportunity to file civil suits if the action was time-barred as of August 11, 2000. The revival of these causes of action lasts through the end of 2009.