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An Act To Change the Statute of Limitations for Gross Sexual Assault by a Juvenile

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

Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §3105-A, sub-§2, ¶A, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 222, §2, is amended to read:

A. ~~Except as provided in paragraph A-1,~~ a prosecution for conduct which, if committed by an adult, is a Class A, Class B or Class C crime, shall~~must~~ be commenced within 6 years after it is committed.

Sec. 2. 15 MRSA §3105-A, sub-§2, ¶A-1 is enacted to read:

A-1. A prosecution for the juvenile crime, if the victim had not attained 16 years of age at the time of the crime, of unlawful sexual contact under Title 17-A, section 255-A or gross sexual assault under Title 17-A, section 253 must be commenced within 12 years after it is committed.

SUMMARY

Current law provides no statute of limitations for the prosecution of the juvenile crimes of gross sexual assault and unlawful sexual contact if the victim was under 16 years of age and the juvenile accused of the crime was at least 16 years of age. If the accused juvenile is under 16 years of age, the prosecution must be brought within 6 years after it is committed. This bill extends the statute of limitations to 12 years when the victim was under 16, the juvenile crime was unlawful sexual contact or gross sexual assault and the accused juvenile was under 16 years of age at the time of the crime.