

H.27

An act relating to eliminating the statute of limitations on prosecutions for sexual assault

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 4501 is amended to read:

§ 4501. LIMITATION OF PROSECUTIONS FOR CERTAIN CRIMES

(a) Prosecutions for aggravated sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault of a child, sexual assault, sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult, human trafficking, aggravated human trafficking, murder, arson causing death, and kidnapping may be commenced at any time after the commission of the offense.

(b) Prosecutions for manslaughter, ~~sexual assault~~, lewd and lascivious conduct, ~~sexual exploitation of children under chapter 64 of this title, sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult~~, grand larceny, robbery, burglary, embezzlement, forgery, bribery offenses, false claims, fraud under 33 V.S.A. § 141(d), and felony tax offenses shall be commenced within six years after the commission of the offense, and not after.

(c) Prosecutions for any of the following offenses alleged to have been committed against a child under 18 years of age shall be commenced within 40 years after the commission of the offense, and not after:

(1) ~~sexual assault~~ sexual exploitation of children under chapter 64 of this title;

- (2) lewd and lascivious conduct;
 - (3) sexual exploitation of a minor as defined in subsection 3258(c) of this title;
 - (4) lewd or lascivious conduct with a child; and
 - (5) manslaughter.
- (d) Prosecutions for arson shall be commenced within 11 years after the commission of the offense, and not after.
- (e) Prosecutions for other felonies and for misdemeanors shall be commenced within three years after the commission of the offense, and not after.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.