

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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Action: Do Pass

Vote: 10 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Krieger, Olson, Shields, Smith J., Stiegler, Whisnant, Barker

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Shannon Sivell, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/19

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Extends the statute of limitations for an action based on child abuse. Provides that an action must commence before the victim reaches age 40 or within five years from the date the victim discovers the causal connection between the injury and the abuse, whichever is longer.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Need for vigorous reform in this area
- Victim impact

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** In order to bring an action for child abuse that occurred when the victim was under age 18 years, the victim must bring the action before age 24 years, or within three years of discovering the causal connection between the injury and the abuse. This leaves victims, who sometimes do not experience the emotional fallout from abuse until years later, without any civil recourse against the offender. By extending the statute of limitations for civil actions against a perpetrator of child abuse, HB 2827 gives victims the time necessary to understand the connection between past abuse and current emotional injuries.