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H.B. 441
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Stewart and A. Mathews

Ashley F. Dean, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Specifies when a cause of action for libel or slander begins.
- Increases the limitations period from one year to four years for libel or slander.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Statute of limitations for libel and slander

Under current law, a prosecution for libel or slander is barred unless it is commenced within one year after either offense was committed.[1] The bill specifies when the cause of action for libel or slander begins, as described below.[2]

The bill requires an action for libel or slander to be commenced within four years after the cause of action accrues instead of one year.[3] The bill also provides that a cause of action for libel accrues from the date of publication of the alleged libelous matter, regardless of when the aggrieved person knew of, or discovered, the alleged libelous matter or regardless of when the aggrieved party reasonably should have known of, or discovered, the alleged libelous matter. Each publication of the alleged libelous matter gives rise to a new limitations period.[4]

A cause of action for slander accrues or occurs from the date the alleged slanderous words were spoken, regardless of when the aggrieved person knew of, or discovered, the alleged

[1] R.C. 2305.11(A).

[2] R.C. 2305.11(B).

[3] R.C. 2305.11(B)(1)

[4] R.C. 2305.11(B)(2).

slanderous words or regardless of when the aggrieved party reasonably should have known of, or discovered, the alleged slanderous words.[5]

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-09-25
Reported, H. Judiciary	06-03-26
Passed House (90-0)	06-03-26

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[5] R.C. 2305.11(B)(3).