

As Passed by the House

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

Am. H. B. No. 441

Representatives Stewart, Mathews, A.

**Cosponsors: Representatives Williams, Bird, Brennan, Gross, Hall, T., Odioso,
Peterson, Rogers, Sigrist, Thomas, C., White, A., Willis, Young**

To amend section 2305.11 of the Revised Code to
increase the limitations period from one year to
four years for libel or slander and provide that
for purposes of the four-year limitations period
for libel or slander, the cause of action starts
from publication of the libelous matter or when
the slanderous words were spoken, regardless of
when the aggrieved party discovered the libelous
matter or slanderous words.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 2305.11 of the Revised Code be
amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2305.11. (A) An action for ~~libel, slander,~~ malicious
prosecution, or false imprisonment, an action for malpractice
other than an action upon a medical, dental, optometric, or
chiropractic claim, an action for legal malpractice against an
attorney or a law firm or legal professional association, or an
action upon a statute for a penalty or forfeiture shall be
commenced within one year after the cause of action accrued,
provided that an action by an employee for the payment of unpaid

minimum wages, unpaid overtime compensation, or liquidated 20
damages by reason of the nonpayment of minimum wages or overtime 21
compensation shall be commenced within two years after the cause 22
of action accrued. 23

~~(B)~~ (B) (1) An action for libel or slander shall be 24
commenced within four years after the cause of action accrues. 25

(2) A cause of action for libel accrues from the date of 26
publication of the alleged libelous matter, regardless of when 27
the aggrieved person knew of, or discovered, the alleged 28
libelous matter or regardless of when the aggrieved party 29
reasonably should have known of, or discovered, the alleged 30
libelous matter. Each publication of the alleged libelous matter 31
gives rise to a new limitations period. 32

(3) A cause of action for slander accrues from the date 33
the alleged slanderous words were spoken, regardless of when the 34
aggrieved person knew of, or discovered, the alleged slanderous 35
words or regardless of when the aggrieved party reasonably 36
should have known of, or discovered, the alleged slanderous 37
words. 38

(C) A civil action for unlawful abortion pursuant to 39
section 2919.12 of the Revised Code, a civil action authorized 40
by division (H) of section 2317.56 of the Revised Code, a civil 41
action pursuant to division (B) of section 2307.52 of the 42
Revised Code for terminating or attempting to terminate a human 43
pregnancy after viability in violation of division (A) of 44
section 2919.17 of the Revised Code, and a civil action for 45
terminating or attempting to terminate a human pregnancy of a 46
pain-capable unborn child in violation of division (E) of 47
section 2919.201 of the Revised Code shall be commenced within 48
one year after the performance or inducement of the abortion or 49

within one year after the attempt to perform or induce the 50
abortion in violation of division (A) of section 2919.17 of the 51
Revised Code or division (E) of section 2919.201 of the Revised 52
Code. 53

~~(C)~~ (D) As used in this section, "medical claim," "dental 54
claim," "optometric claim," and "chiropractic claim" have the 55
same meanings as in section 2305.113 of the Revised Code. 56

Section 2. That existing section 2305.11 of the Revised 57
Code is hereby repealed. 58