

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 659

Representatives Russo, Synenberg

**Cosponsors: Representatives Brennan, Jarrells, Piccolantonio, Sigrist, McNally,
Brownlee, Lett, Upchurch**

To amend sections 2305.111 and 2315.18 of the	1
Revised Code regarding childhood sexual abuse	2
and student sexual abuse and to amend the	3
version of section 2305.111 that is scheduled to	4
take effect on October 12, 2028, to continue the	5
change on and after that date.	6

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

Section 1. That sections 2305.111 and 2315.18 of the	7
Revised Code be amended to read as follows:	8

Sec. 2305.111. (A) As used in this section:	9
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(1) "Childhood sexual abuse" means any conduct that	10
constitutes any of the violations identified in division (A)(1)	11
(a) or (b) of this section and would constitute a criminal	12
offense under the specified section of the Revised Code, if the	13
victim of the violation is at the time of the violation a child	14
under eighteen years of age or a child with a developmental	15
disability or physical impairment under twenty-one years of age.	16
The court need not find that any person has been convicted of or	17
pleaded guilty to the offense under the specified section of the	18
Revised Code in order for the conduct that is the violation	19

constituting the offense to be childhood sexual abuse for 20
purposes of this division. This division applies to any of the 21
following violations committed in the following specified 22
circumstances: 23

(a) A violation of section 2907.02 or section 2907.03 of 24
the Revised Code; 25

(b) A violation of section 2907.05 or 2907.06 of the 26
Revised Code if, at the time of the violation, any of the 27
following apply: 28

(i) The actor is the victim's natural parent, adoptive 29
parent, or stepparent or the guardian, custodian, or person in 30
loco parentis of the victim. 31

(ii) The victim is in custody of law or a patient in a 32
hospital or other institution, and the actor has supervisory or 33
disciplinary authority over the victim. 34

(iii) The actor is a teacher, administrator, coach, or 35
other person in authority employed by or serving in a school for 36
which the director of education and workforce prescribes minimum 37
standards pursuant to division (D) of section 3301.07 of the 38
Revised Code, the victim is enrolled in or attends that school, 39
and the actor is not enrolled in and does not attend that 40
school. 41

(iv) The actor is a teacher, administrator, coach, or 42
other person in authority employed by or serving in an 43
institution of higher education, and the victim is enrolled in 44
or attends that institution. 45

(v) The actor is the victim's athletic or other type of 46
coach, is the victim's instructor, is the leader of a scouting 47
troop of which the victim is a member, or is a person with 48

temporary or occasional disciplinary control over the victim. 49

(vi) The actor is a mental health professional, the victim 50
is a mental health client or patient of the actor, and the actor 51
induces the victim to submit by falsely representing to the 52
victim that the sexual contact involved in the violation is 53
necessary for mental health treatment purposes. 54

(vii) The actor is a licensed medical professional, the 55
victim is a patient of the actor, and the sexual contact occurs 56
in the course of medical treatment. 57

(viii) The victim is confined in a detention facility, and 58
the actor is an employee of that detention facility. 59

(ix) The actor is a cleric, and the victim is a member of, 60
or attends, the church or congregation served by the cleric. 61

(2) "Cleric" has the same meaning as in section 2317.02 of 62
the Revised Code. 63

(3) "Licensed medical professional" has the same meaning 64
as in section 2907.01 of the Revised Code. 65

(4) "Mental health client or patient" has the same meaning 66
as in section 2305.51 of the Revised Code. 67

(5) "Mental health professional" has the same meaning as 68
in section 2305.115 of the Revised Code. 69

(6) "Sexual contact" has the same meaning as in section 70
2907.01 of the Revised Code. 71

(7) "Student" means any person who is enrolled on a full- 72
time or part-time basis in any of the following: 73

(a) A state institution of higher education as defined in 74
section 3345.011 of the Revised Code; 75

(b) A nonprofit institution holding a certificate of 76
authorization pursuant to Chapter 1713. of the Revised Code; 77

(c) An institution holding a certificate of registration 78
from the state board of career colleges and schools under 79
Chapter 3332. of the Revised Code; 80

(d) A private institution exempt from regulation under 81
Chapter 3332. of the Revised Code as prescribed in section 82
3333.046 of the Revised Code; 83

(e) An Ohio technical center as defined in section 3333.94 84
of the Revised Code. 85

(8) "Student sexual abuse" means any conduct that 86
constitutes a violation of section 2907.02, 2907.03, 2907.05, or 87
2907.06 of the Revised Code, if the victim of the violation is 88
at the time of the violation over seventeen years of age but 89
under twenty-four years of age, and the abuse occurred when the 90
victim was a student. The court need not find that any person 91
has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to the offense under the 92
specified section of the Revised Code in order for the conduct 93
that is the violation constituting the offense to be student 94
sexual abuse for purposes of this section. 95

(9) "Victim" means, except as provided in division (B) of 96
this section, a victim of childhood sexual abuse. 97

(B) Except as provided in section 2305.115 of the Revised 98
Code and subject to ~~division (C)~~ divisions (C) and (D) of this 99
section, an action for assault or battery shall be brought 100
within one year after the cause of the action accrues. For 101
purposes of this section, a cause of action for assault or 102
battery accrues upon the later of the following: 103

(1) The date on which the alleged assault or battery 104

occurred; 105

(2) If the plaintiff did not know the identity of the 106
person who allegedly committed the assault or battery on the 107
date on which it allegedly occurred, the earlier of the 108
following dates: 109

(a) The date on which the plaintiff learns the identity of 110
that person; 111

(b) The date on which, by the exercise of reasonable 112
diligence, the plaintiff should have learned the identity of 113
that person. 114

(C) (1) Except as provided in division ~~(C) (2)~~ (C) (3) of this 115
section, an action shall be brought within thirty-seven years 116
after the cause of action accrues if both of the following 117
apply: 118

(a) The action is an action for assault or battery brought 119
by a victim of childhood sexual abuse based on childhood sexual 120
abuse, or an action brought by a victim of childhood sexual 121
abuse asserting any claim resulting from childhood sexual abuse, 122
~~shall be brought within twelve years after the cause of action~~ 123
~~accrues.~~ 124

(b) The action is against a perpetrator of the childhood 125
sexual abuse, an entity that negligently facilitated that sexual 126
abuse, or both. 127

(2) If a DNA record made in connection with an action 128
brought by a victim of childhood sexual abuse asserting a claim 129
resulting from childhood sexual abuse is determined to match 130
another DNA record that is of an identifiable person and if the 131
time of the determination is later than thirty-seven years after 132
the action accrues, the action may be brought within five years 133

after the determination is complete. If the defendant in an 134
action brought by a victim of childhood sexual abuse asserting a 135
claim resulting from childhood sexual abuse that occurs on or 136
after August 3, 2006, has fraudulently concealed from the 137
plaintiff facts that form the basis of the claim, the running of 138
the limitations period with regard to that claim is tolled until 139
the time when the plaintiff discovers or in the exercise of due 140
diligence should have discovered those facts, and the action may 141
be brought within five years after the discovery of the 142
fraudulently concealed facts. 143

~~(2)~~(3) Only for purposes of making claims against a 144
bankruptcy estate of an organization chartered under part B of 145
subtitle II of Title 36 of the United States Code, an action for 146
assault or battery brought by a victim of childhood sexual abuse 147
based on childhood sexual abuse, or an action brought by a 148
victim of childhood sexual abuse asserting any claim resulting 149
from childhood sexual abuse, may be brought at any time after 150
the cause of action accrues. 151

~~(3)~~(4) For purposes of this section, a cause of action for 152
assault or battery based on childhood sexual abuse, or a cause 153
of action for a claim resulting from childhood sexual abuse, 154
accrues upon the date on which the victim reaches the age of 155
majority. 156

(D) (1) An action shall be brought at any time until the 157
victim reaches fifty-five years of age if both of the following 158
apply: 159

(a) The action is an action for assault or battery brought 160
by a victim of student sexual abuse based on student sexual 161
abuse, or an action brought by a victim of student sexual abuse 162
asserting any claim resulting from student sexual abuse. 163

(b) The action is against a perpetrator of the student 164
sexual abuse or an entity that negligently facilitated that 165
sexual abuse. 166

(2) If a DNA record made in connection with an action 167
brought by a victim of student sexual abuse asserting a claim 168
resulting from student sexual abuse is determined to match 169
another DNA record that is of an identifiable person and if the 170
time of the determination is later than the time at which the 171
victim reaches fifty-five years of age, the action may be 172
brought within five years after the determination is complete. 173
If the defendant in an action brought by a victim of student 174
sexual abuse asserting a claim resulting from student sexual 175
abuse that occurs on or after the effective date of this section 176
has fraudulently concealed from the plaintiff facts that form 177
the basis of the claim, the running of the limitations period 178
with regard to that claim is tolled until the time when the 179
plaintiff discovers or in the exercise of due diligence should 180
have discovered those facts, and the action may be brought 181
within five years after the discovery of the fraudulently 182
concealed facts. 183

Sec. 2315.18. (A) As used in this section and in section 184
2315.19 of the Revised Code: 185

(1) "Asbestos claim" has the same meaning as in section 186
2307.91 of the Revised Code. 187

(2) "Economic loss" means any of the following types of 188
pecuniary harm: 189

(a) All wages, salaries, or other compensation lost as a 190
result of an injury or loss to person or property that is a 191
subject of a tort action; 192

(b) All expenditures for medical care or treatment, 193
rehabilitation services, or other care, treatment, services, 194
products, or accommodations as a result of an injury or loss to 195
person or property that is a subject of a tort action; 196

(c) Any other expenditures incurred as a result of an 197
injury or loss to person or property that is a subject of a tort 198
action, other than attorney's fees incurred in connection with 199
that action. 200

(3) "Medical claim," "dental claim," "optometric claim," 201
and "chiropractic claim" have the same meanings as in section 202
2305.113 of the Revised Code. 203

(4) "Noneconomic loss" means nonpecuniary harm that 204
results from an injury or loss to person or property that is a 205
subject of a tort action, including, but not limited to, pain 206
and suffering, loss of society, consortium, companionship, care, 207
assistance, attention, protection, advice, guidance, counsel, 208
instruction, training, or education, disfigurement, mental 209
anguish, and any other intangible loss. 210

(5) "Occurrence" means all claims resulting from or 211
arising out of any one person's bodily injury. 212

(6) "Product liability claim" has the same meaning as in 213
section 2307.71 of the Revised Code. 214

(7) "Tort action" means a civil action for damages for 215
injury or loss to person or property. "Tort action" includes a 216
civil action upon a product liability claim or an asbestos 217
claim, a civil action based on an unlawful discriminatory 218
practice relating to employment brought under section 4112.052 219
of the Revised Code, and a civil action brought under section 220
4112.14 of the Revised Code. "Tort action" does not include a 221

civil action upon a medical claim, dental claim, optometric 222
claim, or chiropractic claim or a civil action for damages for a 223
breach of contract or another agreement between persons. 224

(8) "Trier of fact" means the jury or, in a nonjury 225
action, the court. 226

(B) In a tort action to recover damages for injury or loss 227
to person or property, all of the following apply: 228

(1) There shall not be any limitation on the amount of 229
compensatory damages that represents the economic loss of the 230
person who is awarded the damages in the tort action. 231

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (B) (3) or (4) 232
of this section, the amount of compensatory damages that 233
represents damages for noneconomic loss that is recoverable in a 234
tort action under this section to recover damages for injury or 235
loss to person or property shall not exceed the greater of two 236
hundred fifty thousand dollars or an amount that is equal to 237
three times the economic loss, as determined by the trier of 238
fact, of the plaintiff in that tort action to a maximum of three 239
hundred fifty thousand dollars for each plaintiff in that tort 240
action or a maximum of five hundred thousand dollars for each 241
occurrence that is the basis of that tort action. 242

(3) There shall not be any limitation on the amount of 243
compensatory damages that represents damages for noneconomic 244
loss that is recoverable in a tort action to recover damages for 245
injury or loss to person or property if the noneconomic losses 246
of the plaintiff are for either of the following: 247

(a) Permanent and substantial physical deformity, loss of 248
use of a limb, or loss of a bodily organ system; 249

(b) Permanent physical functional injury that permanently 250

prevents the injured person from being able to independently 251
care for self and perform life-sustaining activities. 252

(4) There shall not be any limitation on the amount of 253
compensatory damages that represents damages for noneconomic 254
loss that is recoverable in a tort action to recover damages for 255
injury or loss to person or property if the noneconomic losses 256
of the plaintiff are due to childhood sexual abuse, student 257
sexual abuse, or a violation of section 2907.02, 2907.03, 258
2907.05, or 2907.06 of the Revised Code. The court need not find 259
that any person has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to the 260
offense under the specified section of the Revised Code in order 261
for compensatory damages to be awarded under this division. 262

(C) In determining an award of compensatory damages for 263
noneconomic loss in a tort action, the trier of fact shall not 264
consider any of the following: 265

(1) Evidence of a defendant's alleged wrongdoing, 266
misconduct, or guilt; 267

(2) Evidence of the defendant's wealth or financial 268
resources; 269

(3) All other evidence that is offered for the purpose of 270
punishing the defendant, rather than offered for a compensatory 271
purpose. 272

(D) If a trial is conducted in a tort action to recover 273
damages for injury or loss to person or property and a plaintiff 274
prevails in that action, the court in a nonjury trial shall make 275
findings of fact, and the jury in a jury trial shall return a 276
general verdict accompanied by answers to interrogatories, that 277
shall specify all of the following: 278

(1) The total compensatory damages recoverable by the 279

plaintiff; 280

(2) The portion of the total compensatory damages that 281
represents damages for economic loss; 282

(3) The portion of the total compensatory damages that 283
represents damages for noneconomic loss. 284

(E) (1) After the trier of fact in a tort action to recover 285
damages for injury or loss to person or property complies with 286
division (D) of this section, the court shall enter a judgment 287
in favor of the plaintiff for compensatory damages for economic 288
loss in the amount determined pursuant to division (D) (2) of 289
this section, and, subject to division (F) (1) of this section, 290
the court shall enter a judgment in favor of the plaintiff for 291
compensatory damages for noneconomic loss. Except as provided in 292
division (B) (3) or (4) of this section, in no event shall a 293
judgment for compensatory damages for noneconomic loss exceed 294
the maximum recoverable amount that represents damages for 295
noneconomic loss as provided in division (B) (2) of this section. 296
Division (B) of this section shall be applied in a jury trial 297
only after the jury has made its factual findings and 298
determination as to the damages. 299

(2) Prior to the trial in the tort action described in 300
division (D) of this section, any party may seek summary 301
judgment with respect to the nature of the alleged injury or 302
loss to person or property, seeking a determination of the 303
damages as described in division (B) (2) of this section. 304

(F) (1) A court of common pleas has no jurisdiction to 305
enter judgment on an award of compensatory damages for 306
noneconomic loss in excess of the limits set forth in this 307
section. 308

(2) If the trier of fact is a jury, the court shall not
instruct the jury with respect to the limit on compensatory
damages for noneconomic loss described in division (B) (2) of
this section, and neither counsel for any party nor a witness
shall inform the jury or potential jurors of that limit.

(G) With respect to a tort action to which division (B) (2)
of this section applies, any excess amount of compensatory
damages for noneconomic loss that is greater than the applicable
amount specified in division (B) (2) of this section shall not be
reallocated to any other tortfeasor beyond the amount of
compensatory damages that the tortfeasor would otherwise be
responsible for under the laws of this state.

(H) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(1) Tort actions that are brought against the state in the
court of claims, including, but not limited to, those actions in
which a state university or college is a defendant and to which
division (B) (3) of section 3345.40 of the Revised Code applies;

(2) Tort actions that are brought against political
subdivisions of this state and that are commenced under or are
subject to Chapter 2744. of the Revised Code. Division (C) of
section 2744.05 of the Revised Code applies to recoverable
damages in those actions.

(3) Wrongful death actions brought pursuant to Chapter
2125. of the Revised Code.

(I) If the provisions regarding the limits on compensatory
damages for noneconomic loss set forth in division (B) (2) of
this section have been determined to be unconstitutional, then
division (C) of this section and section 2315.19 of the Revised
Code shall govern the determination of an award of compensatory

damages for noneconomic loss in a tort action. 338

Section 2. That existing sections 2305.111 and 2315.18 of 339
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 340

Section 3. That section 2305.111 of the Revised Code that 341
is scheduled to take effect on October 12, 2028, be amended to 342
read as follows: 343

Sec. 2305.111. (A) As used in this section: 344

(1) "Childhood sexual abuse" means any conduct that 345
constitutes any of the violations identified in division (A)(1) 346
(a) or (b) of this section and would constitute a criminal 347
offense under the specified section of the Revised Code, if the 348
victim of the violation is at the time of the violation a child 349
under eighteen years of age or a child with a developmental 350
disability or physical impairment under twenty-one years of age. 351
The court need not find that any person has been convicted of or 352
pleaded guilty to the offense under the specified section of the 353
Revised Code in order for the conduct that is the violation 354
constituting the offense to be childhood sexual abuse for 355
purposes of this division. This division applies to any of the 356
following violations committed in the following specified 357
circumstances: 358

(a) A violation of section 2907.02 or section 2907.03 of 359
the Revised Code; 360

(b) A violation of section 2907.05 or 2907.06 of the 361
Revised Code if, at the time of the violation, any of the 362
following apply: 363

(i) The actor is the victim's natural parent, adoptive 364
parent, or stepparent or the guardian, custodian, or person in 365
loco parentis of the victim. 366

(ii) The victim is in custody of law or a patient in a 367
hospital or other institution, and the actor has supervisory or 368
disciplinary authority over the victim. 369

(iii) The actor is a teacher, administrator, coach, or 370
other person in authority employed by or serving in a school for 371
which the director of education and workforce prescribes minimum 372
standards pursuant to division (D) of section 3301.07 of the 373
Revised Code, the victim is enrolled in or attends that school, 374
and the actor is not enrolled in and does not attend that 375
school. 376

(iv) The actor is a teacher, administrator, coach, or 377
other person in authority employed by or serving in an 378
institution of higher education, and the victim is enrolled in 379
or attends that institution. 380

(v) The actor is the victim's athletic or other type of 381
coach, is the victim's instructor, is the leader of a scouting 382
troop of which the victim is a member, or is a person with 383
temporary or occasional disciplinary control over the victim. 384

(vi) The actor is a mental health professional, the victim 385
is a mental health client or patient of the actor, and the actor 386
induces the victim to submit by falsely representing to the 387
victim that the sexual contact involved in the violation is 388
necessary for mental health treatment purposes. 389

(vii) The actor is a licensed medical professional, the 390
victim is a patient of the actor, and the sexual contact occurs 391
in the course of medical treatment. 392

(viii) The victim is confined in a detention facility, and 393
the actor is an employee of that detention facility. 394

(ix) The actor is a cleric, and the victim is a member of, 395

or attends, the church or congregation served by the cleric. 396

(2) "Cleric" has the same meaning as in section 2317.02 of 397
the Revised Code. 398

(3) "Licensed medical professional" has the same meaning 399
as in section 2907.01 of the Revised Code. 400

(4) "Mental health client or patient" has the same meaning 401
as in section 2305.51 of the Revised Code. 402

(5) "Mental health professional" has the same meaning as 403
in section 2305.115 of the Revised Code. 404

(6) "Sexual contact" has the same meaning as in section 405
2907.01 of the Revised Code. 406

(7) "Student" means any person who is enrolled on a full- 407
time or part-time basis in any of the following: 408

(a) A state institution of higher education as defined in 409
section 3345.011 of the Revised Code; 410

(b) A nonprofit institution holding a certificate of 411
authorization pursuant to Chapter 1713. of the Revised Code; 412

(c) An institution holding a certificate of registration 413
from the state board of career colleges and schools under 414
Chapter 3332. of the Revised Code; 415

(d) A private institution exempt from regulation under 416
Chapter 3332. of the Revised Code as prescribed in section 417
3333.046 of the Revised Code; 418

(e) An Ohio technical center as defined in section 3333.94 419
of the Revised Code. 420

(8) "Student sexual abuse" means any conduct that 421
constitutes a violation of section 2907.02, 2907.03, 2907.05, or 422

2907.06 of the Revised Code, if the victim of the violation is 423
at the time of the violation over seventeen years of age but 424
under twenty-four years of age, and the abuse occurred when the 425
victim was a student. The court need not find that any person 426
has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to the offense under the 427
specified section of the Revised Code in order for the conduct 428
that is the violation constituting the offense to be student 429
sexual abuse for purposes of this section. 430

(9) "Victim" means, except as provided in division (B) of 431
this section, a victim of childhood sexual abuse. 432

(B) Except as provided in section 2305.115 of the Revised 433
Code and subject to ~~division (C)~~ divisions (C) and (D) of this 434
section, an action for assault or battery shall be brought 435
within one year after the cause of the action accrues. For 436
purposes of this section, a cause of action for assault or 437
battery accrues upon the later of the following: 438

(1) The date on which the alleged assault or battery 439
occurred; 440

(2) If the plaintiff did not know the identity of the 441
person who allegedly committed the assault or battery on the 442
date on which it allegedly occurred, the earlier of the 443
following dates: 444

(a) The date on which the plaintiff learns the identity of 445
that person; 446

(b) The date on which, by the exercise of reasonable 447
diligence, the plaintiff should have learned the identity of 448
that person. 449

~~(C)~~ (1) An action shall be brought within thirty-seven 450
years after the cause of action accrues if both of the following 451

apply:

(a) The action is an action for assault or battery brought
by a victim of childhood sexual abuse based on childhood sexual
abuse, or an action brought by a victim of childhood sexual
abuse asserting any claim resulting from childhood sexual abuse,
~~shall be brought within twelve years after the cause of action~~
~~accrues.~~

(b) The action is against a perpetrator of the childhood
sexual abuse, an entity that negligently facilitated that sexual
abuse, or both.

(2) If a DNA record made in connection with an action
brought by a victim of childhood sexual abuse asserting a claim
resulting from childhood sexual abuse is determined to match
another DNA record that is of an identifiable person and if the
time of the determination is later than thirty-seven years after
the action accrues, the action may be brought within five years
after the determination is complete.-

(3) For purposes of this section, a cause of action for
assault or battery based on childhood sexual abuse, or a cause
of action for a claim resulting from childhood sexual abuse,
accrues upon the date on which the victim reaches the age of
majority.

(4) If the defendant in an action brought by a victim of
childhood sexual abuse asserting a claim resulting from
childhood sexual abuse that occurs on or after August 3, 2006,
has fraudulently concealed from the plaintiff facts that form
the basis of the claim, the running of the limitations period
with regard to that claim is tolled until the time when the
plaintiff discovers or in the exercise of due diligence should

have discovered those facts, and the action may be brought
within five years after the discovery of the fraudulently
concealed facts.

(D) (1) An action shall be brought at any time until the
victim reaches fifty-five years of age if both of the following
apply:

(a) The action is an action for assault or battery brought
by a victim of student sexual abuse based on student sexual
abuse, or an action brought by a victim of student sexual abuse
asserting any claim resulting from student sexual abuse.

(b) The action is against a perpetrator of the student
sexual abuse or an entity that negligently facilitated that
sexual abuse.

(2) If a DNA record made in connection with an action
brought by a victim of student sexual abuse asserting a claim
resulting from student sexual abuse is determined to match
another DNA record that is of an identifiable person and if the
time of the determination is later than the time at which the
victim reaches fifty-five years of age, the action may be
brought within five years after the determination is complete.
If the defendant in an action brought by a victim of student
sexual abuse asserting a claim resulting from student sexual
abuse that occurs on or after the effective date of this section
has fraudulently concealed from the plaintiff facts that form
the basis of the claim, the running of the limitations period
with regard to that claim is tolled until the time when the
plaintiff discovers or in the exercise of due diligence should
have discovered those facts, and the action may be brought
within five years after the discovery of the fraudulently
concealed facts.

Section 4. That existing section 2305.111 of the Revised 511
Code that is scheduled to take effect on October 12, 2028, is 512
hereby repealed. 513

Section 5. Sections 3 and 4 of this act take effect on 514
October 12, 2028. 515