As Introduced

135th General Assembly Regular Session 2023-2024

S. B. No. 289

Senator Antonio

Cosponsors: Senators Hicks-Hudson, Smith, DeMora, Craig, Kunze

A BILL

То	amend sections 2901.13 and 2933.82 and to enact	1
	section 2305.119 of the Revised Code to	2
	eliminate the period of limitation for the	3
	criminal prosecution of a person for rape and	4
	for a civil action brought by a victim of	5
	conduct that would constitute rape.	6

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

Section 1. That sections 2901.13 and 2933.82 be amended	7
and section 2305.119 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as	8
follows:	9
Sec. 2305.119. Notwithstanding any other section of the	10
Revised Code to the contrary, there is no period of limitations	11
for a civil action brought by a victim of conduct that would	12
constitute a violation of section 2907.02 of the Revised Code or	13
conduct that would constitute conspiracy to commit, complicity	14
in committing, or attempting to commit a violation of section	15
2907.02 of the Revised Code against the person who committed	16
that conduct.	17
Sec. 2901.13. (A)(1) Except as provided in division (A)	18

S. B. No. 289	Page 2
As Introduced	

(2), (3) , (4) , or (5) of this section or as otherwise provided	19
in this section, a prosecution shall be barred unless it is	20
commenced within the following periods after an offense is	21
committed:	22
(a) For a felony, six years;	23
(b) For a misdemeanor other than a minor misdemeanor, two	24
years;	25
(c) For a minor misdemeanor, six months.	26
(2) There is no period of limitation for the prosecution	27
of a any of the following offenses:	28
<u>(a) A violation of section 2903.01—or</u> 2903.02, or	29
2907.02 of the Revised Code-or for the prosecution of a :	30
(b) A conspiracy to commit, attempt to commit, or	31
complicity in committing a violation of section 2903.01-or-,	32
2903.02 <u>, or 2907.02</u> of the Revised Code.	33
(3) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (B) to (J)	34
of this section, a prosecution of any of the following offenses	35
shall be barred unless it is commenced within twenty years after	36
the offense is committed:	37
(a) A violation of section 2903.03, 2903.04, 2905.01,	38
2905.32, 2907.04, 2907.05, 2907.21, 2909.02, 2909.22, 2909.23,	39
2909.24, 2909.26, 2909.27, 2909.28, 2909.29, 2911.01, 2911.02,	40
2911.11, 2911.12, or 2917.02 of the Revised Code, a violation of	41
section 2903.11 or 2903.12 of the Revised Code if the victim is	42
a peace officer, a violation of section 2903.13 of the Revised	43
Code that is a felony, or a violation of former section 2907.12	44
of the Revised Code;	45
(b) A conspiracy to commit, attempt to commit, or	46

complicity in committing a violation set forth in division (A)	47
(3) (a) of this section.	48
(4) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (D) to (L)	49
of this section, a prosecution of a violation of section 2907.02	50
or 2907.03 of the Revised Code or a conspiracy to commit,	51
attempt to commit, or complicity in committing a violation of	52
either that section shall be barred unless it is commenced	53
within twenty-five years after the offense is committed.	54
(5)(a) Except as otherwise provided in divisions (A)(5)(b)	55
and (E) to (I) of this section, a prosecution of a violation of	56
section 2907.13 of the Revised Code shall be barred unless it is	57
commenced within five years after the offense is committed.	58
(b) Prosecution that would otherwise be barred under	59
division (A)(5)(a) of this section may be commenced within five	60
years after the date of the discovery of the offense by either	61
an aggrieved person or the aggrieved person's legal	62
representative who is not a party to the offense.	63
(c) As used in division (B)(5)(b) of this section,	64
"aggrieved person" includes any of the following individuals	65
with regard to a violation of section 2907.13 of the Revised	66
Code:	67
code:	07
(i) A patient who was the victim of the violation;	68
(ii) The spouse or surviving spouse of a patient who was	69
the victim of the violation;	70
(iii) Any child born as a result of the violation.	71
(III, my child both do a lebate of the violation.	, 1
(B)(1) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(2) of	72
this section, if the period of limitation provided in division	73
(A) (1) or (3) of this section has expired, prosecution shall be	74

commenced for an offense of which an element is fraud or breach	75
of a fiduciary duty, within one year after discovery of the	76
offense either by an aggrieved person, or by the aggrieved	77
person's legal representative who is not a party to the offense.	78
(2) If the period of limitation provided in division (A)	79
(1) or (3) of this section has expired, prosecution for a	80
violation of section 2913.49 of the Revised Code shall be	81
commenced within five years after discovery of the offense	82
either by an aggrieved person or the aggrieved person's legal	83
representative who is not a party to the offense.	84
(C)(1) If the period of limitation provided in division	85
(A)(1) or (3) of this section has expired, prosecution shall be	86
commenced for the following offenses during the following	87
specified periods of time:	88
(a) For an offense involving misconduct in office by a	89
public servant, at any time while the accused remains a public	90
servant, or within two years thereafter;	91
(b) For an offense by a person who is not a public servant	92
but whose offense is directly related to the misconduct in	93
office of a public servant, at any time while that public	94
servant remains a public servant, or within two years	95
thereafter.	96
(2) As used in this division:	97
(a) An "offense is directly related to the misconduct in	98
office of a public servant" includes, but is not limited to, a	99
violation of section 101.71, 101.91, 121.61 or 2921.13, division	100
(F) or (H) of section 102.03, division (A) of section 2921.02,	101
division (A) or (B) of section 2921.43, or division (F) or (G)	102
of section 3517.13 of the Revised Code, that is directly related	103

to an offense involving misconduct in office of a public	104
servant.	105
(b) "Public servant" has the same meaning as in section	106
2921.01 of the Revised Code.	107
(D)(1) If a DNA record made in connection with the	108
criminal investigation of the commission of a violation of	109
section $\frac{2907.02 \text{ or}}{2907.03}$ of the Revised Code is determined to	110
match another DNA record that is of an identifiable person and	111
if the time of the determination is later than twenty-five years	112
after the offense is committed, prosecution of that person for a	113
violation of the that section may be commenced within five years	114
after the determination is complete.	115
(2) If a DNA record made in connection with the criminal	116
investigation of the commission of a violation of section	117
2907.02 or 2907.03 of the Revised Code is determined to match	118
another DNA record that is of an identifiable person and if the	119
time of the determination is within twenty-five years after the	120
offense is committed, prosecution of that person for a violation	121
of the that section may be commenced within the longer of	122
twenty-five years after the offense is committed or five years	123
after the determination is complete.	124
	105
(3) As used in this division, "DNA record" has the same	125
meaning as in section 109.573 of the Revised Code.	126
(E) An offense is committed when every element of the	127
offense occurs. In the case of an offense of which an element is	128
a continuing course of conduct, the period of limitation does	129
not begin to run until such course of conduct or the accused's	130
accountability for it terminates, whichever occurs first.	131
(E) A prospection is commoned on the date an indictment	133

S. B. No. 289
Page 6
As Introduced

is returned or an information filed, or on the date a lawful	133
arrest without a warrant is made, or on the date a warrant,	134
summons, citation, or other process is issued, whichever occurs	135
first. A prosecution is not commenced by the return of an	136
indictment or the filing of an information unless reasonable	137
diligence is exercised to issue and execute process on the same.	138
A prosecution is not commenced upon issuance of a warrant,	139
summons, citation, or other process, unless reasonable diligence	140
is exercised to execute the same.	141
(G) The period of limitation shall not run during any time	142
when the corpus delicti remains undiscovered.	143
(H) The period of limitation shall not run during any time	144
when the accused purposely avoids prosecution. Proof that the	145
accused departed this state or concealed the accused's identity	146
or whereabouts is prima-facie evidence of the accused's purpose	147
to avoid prosecution.	148

(I) The period of limitation shall not run during any time a prosecution against the accused based on the same conduct is pending in this state, even though the indictment, information, or process that commenced the prosecution is quashed or the proceedings on the indictment, information, or process are set aside or reversed on appeal.

(J) The period of limitation for a violation of any

provision of Title XXIX of the Revised Code that involves a

physical or mental wound, injury, disability, or condition of a

nature that reasonably indicates abuse or neglect of a child

under eighteen years of age or of a child with a developmental

disability or physical impairment under twenty-one years of age

shall not begin to run until either of the following occurs:

155

(1) The victim of the offense reaches the age of majority.	162
(2) A public children services agency, or a municipal or	163
county peace officer that is not the parent or guardian of the	164
child, in the county in which the child resides or in which the	165
abuse or neglect is occurring or has occurred has been notified	166
that abuse or neglect is known, suspected, or believed to have	167
occurred.	168
(K) As used in this section, "peace officer" has the same	169
meaning as in section 2935.01 of the Revised Code.	170
(L)(1) The amendments to divisions (A) and (D) of this	171
section that took effect on July 16, 2015, apply to a violation	172
of section 2907.02 or 2907.03 of the Revised Code committed on	173
and after July 16, 2015, and apply to a violation of either of	174
those sections committed prior to July 16, 2015, if prosecution	175
for that violation was not barred under this section as it	176
existed on the day prior to July 16, 2015.	177
(2) The amendment to division (A)(2) of this section that	178
takes effect on the effective date of this amendment April 4,	179
2023, applies to a conspiracy to commit, attempt to commit, or	180
complicity in committing a violation of section 2903.01 or	181
2903.02 of the Revised Code if the conspiracy, attempt, or	182
complicity is committed on or after the effective date of this	183
amendment—April 4, 2023, and applies to a conspiracy to commit,	184
attempt to commit, or complicity in committing a violation of	185
either of those sections if the conspiracy, attempt, or	186
complicity was committed prior to that effective date—April 4,	187
2023, and prosecution for that conspiracy, attempt, or	188
complicity was not barred under this section as it existed on	189
the day prior to that effective date April 4, 2023.	190

Sec. 2933.82. (A) As used in this section:	191
(1)(a) "Biological evidence" means any of the following:	192
(i) The contents of a sexual assault examination kit;	193
(ii) Any item that contains blood, semen, hair, saliva,	194
skin tissue, fingernail scrapings, bone, bodily fluids, or any	195
other identifiable biological material that was collected as	196
part of a criminal investigation or delinquent child	197
investigation and that reasonably may be used to incriminate or	198
exculpate any person for an offense or delinquent act.	199
(b) The definition of "biological evidence" set forth in	200
division (A)(1)(a) of this section applies whether the material	201
in question is cataloged separately, such as on a slide or swab	202
or in a test tube, or is present on other evidence, including,	203
but not limited to, clothing, ligatures, bedding or other	204
household material, drinking cups or containers, or cigarettes.	205
(2) "Biological material" has the same meaning as in	206
section 2953.71 of the Revised Code.	207
(3) "DNA," "DNA analysis," "DNA database," "DNA record,"	208
and "DNA specimen" have the same meanings as in section 109.573	209
of the Revised Code.	210
(4) "Prosecutor" has the same meaning as in section	211
2935.01 of the Revised Code.	212
(5) "Governmental evidence-retention entity" means all of	213
the following:	214
(a) Any law enforcement agency, prosecutor's office,	215
court, public hospital, crime laboratory, or other governmental	216
or public entity or individual within this state that is charged	217
with the collection, storage, or retrieval of biological	218

evidence;	219
(b) Any official or employee of any entity or individual	220
described in division (A)(5)(a) of this section.	221
(B)(1) Each governmental evidence-retention entity that	222
secures any sexual assault examination kit in relation to an	223
investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense or delinquent	224
act that is a violation of section 2905.32 of the Revised Code,	225
or any biological evidence in relation to an investigation or	226
prosecution of a criminal offense or delinquent act that is a	227
violation of section 2903.01, 2903.02, or 2903.03, a violation	228
of section 2903.04 or 2903.06 that is a felony of the first or	229
second degree, a violation of section 2907.02 or 2907.03 or	230
division (A)(4) or (B) of section 2907.05 of the Revised Code,	231
or an attempt to commit a violation of section 2907.02 of the	232
Revised Code shall secure the biological evidence for whichever	233
of the following periods of time is applicable:	234
(a) For a violation of section 2903.01 -or_ ,_2903.02 <u>, or</u>	235
2907.02 of the Revised Code, or an attempt to commit a violation	236
of section 2907.02 of the Revised Code, for the period of time	237
that the offense or act remains unsolved;	238
(b) For a violation of section 2903.03 or 2905.32, a	239
violation of section 2903.04 or 2903.06 that is a felony of the	240
first or second degree, a violation of section 2907.02 or 	241
2907.03 or $\frac{\text{of}}{\text{division}}$ (A)(4) or (B) of section 2907.05 of the	242
Revised Code, or an attempt to commit a violation of section	243
2907.02 of the Revised Code, for a period of thirty years if the	244
offense or act remains unsolved;	245
(c) If any person is convicted of or pleads guilty to the	246
offense, or is adjudicated a delinquent child for committing the	247

S. B. No. 289
Page 10
As Introduced

delinquent act, for the earlier of the following: (i) the	248
expiration of the latest of the following periods of time that	249
apply to the person: the period of time that the person is	250
incarcerated, is in a department of youth services institution	251
or other juvenile facility, is under a community control	252
sanction for that offense, is under any order of disposition for	253
that act, is on probation or parole for that offense, is under	254
judicial release or supervised release for that act, is under	255
post-release control for that offense, is involved in civil	256
litigation in connection with that offense or act, or is subject	257
to registration and other duties imposed for that offense or act	258
under sections 2950.04, 2950.041, 2950.05, and 2950.06 of the	259
Revised Code or (ii) thirty years. If after the period of thirty	260
years the person remains incarcerated, then the governmental	261
evidence-retention entity shall secure the biological evidence	262
until the person is released from incarceration or dies.	263

(2) (a) A law enforcement agency shall review all of its 264 records and reports pertaining to its investigation of any 265 offense specified in division (B)(1) of this section, except a 266 violation of section 2905.32 of the Revised Code, as soon as 267 possible after March 23, 2015. A law enforcement agency shall 268 review all of its records and reports pertaining to its 269 investigation of any violation of section 2905.32 of the Revised 270 Code as soon as possible after April 4, 2023. If the law 271 enforcement agency's review determines that one or more persons 272 may have committed or participated in an offense specified in 273 division (B)(1) of this section or another offense committed 274 during the course of an offense specified in division (B)(1) of 275 this section and the agency is in possession of a sexual assault 276 examination kit secured during the course of the agency's 277 investigation, as soon as possible, but not later than one year 278

after March 23, 2015, or, in the case of a violation of section	279
2905.32 of the Revised Code, not later than one year after April	280
4, 2023, the agency shall forward the contents of the kit to the	281
oureau of criminal identification and investigation or another	282
crime laboratory for a DNA analysis of the contents of the kit	283
if a DNA analysis has not previously been performed on the	284
contents of the kit. The law enforcement agency shall consider	285
the period of time remaining under section 2901.13 of the	286
Revised Code for commencing the prosecution of a criminal	287
offense related to the DNA specimens from the kit as well as	288
other relevant factors in prioritizing the forwarding of the	289
contents of sexual assault examination kits.	290

- (b) If an investigation is initiated on or after March 23, 291 2015, or, in the case of a violation of section 2905.32 of the 292 Revised Code, on or after April 4, 2023, and if a law 293 enforcement agency investigating an offense specified in 294 division (B)(1) of this section determines that one or more 295 persons may have committed or participated in an offense 296 specified in division (B)(1) of this section or another offense 297 committed during the course of an offense specified in division 298 (B) (1) of this section, the law enforcement agency shall forward 299 the contents of a sexual assault examination kit in the agency's 300 possession to the bureau or another crime laboratory within 301 thirty days for a DNA analysis of the contents of the kit. 302
- (c) A law enforcement agency shall be considered in the 303 possession of a sexual assault examination kit that is not in 304 the law enforcement agency's possession for purposes of 305 divisions (B)(2)(a) and (b) of this section if the sexual 306 assault examination kit contains biological evidence related to 307 the law enforcement agency's investigation of an offense 308 specified in division (B)(1) of this section and is in the 309

possession of another government evidence-retention entity. The	310
law enforcement agency shall be responsible for retrieving the	311
sexual assault examination kit from the government evidence-	312
retention entity and forwarding the contents of the kit to the	313
bureau or another crime laboratory as required under divisions	314
(B)(2)(a) and (b) of this section.	315

- (d)(i) The bureau or a laboratory under contract with the 316 bureau pursuant to division (B)(5) of section 109.573 of the 317 Revised Code shall perform a DNA analysis of the contents of any 318 sexual assault examination kit forwarded to the bureau pursuant 319 to division (B)(2)(a) or (b) of this section as soon as possible 320 after the bureau receives the contents of the kit. The bureau 321 322 shall enter the resulting DNA record into a DNA database. If the DNA analysis is performed by a laboratory under contract with 323 the bureau, the laboratory shall forward the biological evidence 324 to the bureau immediately after the laboratory performs the DNA 325 analysis. A crime laboratory shall perform a DNA analysis of the 326 contents of any sexual assault examination kit forwarded to the 327 crime laboratory pursuant to division (B)(2)(a) or (b) of this 328 section as soon as possible after the crime laboratory receives 329 the contents of the kit and shall enter the resulting DNA record 330 into a DNA database subject to the applicable DNA index system 331 standards. 332
- (ii) Upon the completion of the DNA analysis by the bureau or a crime laboratory under contract with the bureau under this division, the bureau shall return the contents of the sexual assault examination kit to the law enforcement agency. The law enforcement agency shall secure the contents of the sexual assault examination kit in accordance with division (B)(1) of this section, as applicable.

333

334

335

336

337

(e) The failure of any law enforcement agency to comply	340
with any time limit specified in this section shall not create,	341
and shall not be construed as creating, any basis or right to	342
appeal, claim for or right to postconviction relief, or claim	343
for or right to a new trial or any other claim or right to	344
relief by any person.	345
(f) All governmental evidence-retention entities shall	346
submit reports regarding sexual assault examination kit	347
inventory to the attorney general as required under section	348
2933.821 of the Revised Code.	349
(3) This section applies to sexual assault examination	350
kits in the possession of any governmental evidence-retention	351
entity during an investigation or prosecution of a criminal	352
offense or delinquent act that is a violation of section 2905.32	353
of the Revised Code, and any evidence likely to contain	354
biological material that was in the possession of any	355
governmental evidence-retention entity during the investigation	356
and prosecution of a criminal case or delinquent child case	357
involving a violation of section 2903.01, 2903.02, or 2903.03, a	358
violation of section 2903.04 or 2903.06 that is a felony of the	359
first or second degree, a violation of section 2907.02 or	360
2907.03 or of division (A)(4) or (B) of section 2907.05 of the	361
Revised Code, or an attempt to commit a violation of section	362
2907.02 of the Revised Code.	363
(4) A governmental evidence-retention entity that	364
possesses biological evidence shall retain the biological	365
evidence in the amount and manner sufficient to develop a DNA	366
record from the biological material contained in or included on	367
the evidence.	368

(5) Upon written request by the defendant in a criminal

case or the alleged delinquent child in a delinquent child case	370
involving a violation of section 2903.01, 2903.02, 2903.03, or	371
2905.32, a violation of section 2903.04 or 2903.06 that is a	372
felony of the first or second degree, a violation of section	373
2907.02 or 2907.03 or of division (A)(4) or (B) of section	374
2907.05 of the Revised Code, or an attempt to commit a violation	375
of section 2907.02 of the Revised Code, a governmental evidence-	376
retention entity that possesses biological evidence shall	377
prepare an inventory of the biological evidence that has been	378
preserved in connection with the defendant's criminal case or	379
the alleged delinquent child's delinquent child case.	380
(6) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(8) of	381
this section, a governmental evidence-retention entity that	382
possesses biological evidence that includes biological material	383
may destroy the evidence before the expiration of the applicable	384
period of time specified in division (B)(1) of this section if	385
all of the following apply:	386
(a) No other provision of federal or state law requires	387
the state to preserve the evidence.	388
(b) The governmental evidence-retention entity, by	389
certified mail, return receipt requested, provides notice of	390
intent to destroy the evidence to all of the following:	391
(i) All persons who remain in custody, incarcerated, in a	392
department of youth services institution or other juvenile	393
facility, under a community control sanction, under any order of	394
disposition, on probation or parole, under judicial release or	395
supervised release, under post-release control, involved in	396
civil litigation, or subject to registration and other duties	397
imposed for that offense or act under sections 2950.04,	398

2950.041, 2950.05, and 2950.06 of the Revised Code as a result

of a criminal conviction, delinquency adjudication, or	400
commitment related to the evidence in question;	401
(ii) The attorney of record for each person who is in	402
custody in any circumstance described in division (B)(6)(b)(i)	403
of this section if the attorney of record can be located;	404
(iii) The state public defender;	405
(iv) The office of the prosecutor of record in the case	406
that resulted in the custody of the person in custody in any	407
circumstance described in division (B)(6)(b)(i) of this section;	408
(v) The attorney general.	409
(c) No person who is notified under division (B)(6)(b) of	410
this section does either of the following within one year after	411
the date on which the person receives the notice:	412
(i) Files a motion for testing of evidence under sections	413
2953.71 to 2953.81 or section 2953.82 of the Revised Code;	414
(ii) Submits a written request for retention of evidence	415
to the governmental evidence-retention entity that provided	416
notice of its intent to destroy evidence under division (B)(6)	417
(b) of this section.	418
(7) Except as otherwise provided in division (B)(8) of	419
this section, if, after providing notice under division (B)(6)	420
(b) of this section of its intent to destroy evidence, a	421
governmental evidence-retention entity receives a written	422
request for retention of the evidence from any person to whom	423
the notice is provided, the governmental evidence-retention	424
entity shall retain the evidence while the person referred to in	425
division (B)(6)(b)(i) of this section remains in custody,	426
incarcerated, in a department of youth services institution or	427

other juvenile facility, under a community control sanction,	428
under any order of disposition, on probation or parole, under	429
judicial release or supervised release, under post-release	430
control, involved in civil litigation, or subject to	431
registration and other duties imposed for that offense or act	432
under sections 2950.04, 2950.041, 2950.05, and 2950.06 of the	433
Revised Code as a result of a criminal conviction, delinquency	434
adjudication, or commitment related to the evidence in question.	435
(8) A governmental evidence-retention entity that	436
possesses biological evidence that includes biological material	437
may destroy the evidence five years after a person pleads guilty	438
or no contest to a violation of section 2903.01, 2903.02,	439
2903.03, or 2905.32, a violation of section 2903.04 or 2903.06	440
that is a felony of the first or second degree, a violation of	441
section 2907.02, 2907.03, division (A)(4) or (B) of section	442
2907.05, or an attempt to commit a violation of section 2907.02	443
of the Revised Code and all appeals have been exhausted unless	444
either of the following applies:	445
(a) Upon a motion to the court by the person who pleaded	446
guilty or no contest or the person's attorney and notice to	447
those persons described in division (B)(6)(b) of this section	448
requesting that the evidence not be destroyed, the court finds	449
good cause as to why that evidence must be retained.	450
(b) A victim submits a request pursuant to section 109.68	451
of the Revised Code for further preservation of a sexual assault	452
examination kit or its probative contents beyond the intended	453
destruction or disposal date.	454
(9) A governmental evidence-retention entity shall not be	455
required to preserve physical evidence pursuant to this section	456

that is of such a size, bulk, or physical character as to render

retention impracticable. When retention of physical evidence	458
that otherwise would be required to be retained pursuant to this	459
section is impracticable as described in this division, the	460
governmental evidence-retention entity that otherwise would be	461
required to retain the physical evidence shall remove and	462
preserve portions of the material evidence likely to contain	463
biological evidence related to the offense, in a quantity	464
sufficient to permit future DNA testing before returning or	465
disposing of that physical evidence.	466
(C) The office of the attorney general shall administer	467
and conduct training programs for law enforcement officers and	468
other relevant employees who are charged with preserving and	469
cataloging biological evidence regarding the methods and	470
procedures referenced in this section.	471
Section 2. That existing sections 2901.13 and 2933.82 of	472
the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	473
Section 3. Section 2901.13 of the Revised Code is	474
presented in this act as a composite of the section as amended	475
by both S.B. 16 and S.B. 288 of the 134th General Assembly. The	476
General Assembly, applying the principle stated in division (B)	477
of section 1.52 of the Revised Code that amendments are to be	478
harmonized if reasonably capable of simultaneous operation,	479
finds that the composite is the resulting version of the section	480
in effect prior to the effective date of the section as	481
presented in this act.	482