

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 123rd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2007

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Legislative Document

No. 1512

S.P. 535

March 20, 2007

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### An Act To Change the Statute of Limitations for Gross Sexual Assault by a Juvenile

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator BARTLETT of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Senators: DIAMOND of Cumberland, McCORMICK of Kennebec.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 15 MRSA §3105-A, sub-§2, ¶A**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 222, §2, is  
3 amended to read:

4 A. A Except as provided in paragraph A-1, a prosecution for conduct which, if  
5 committed by an adult, is a Class A, Class B or Class C crime, shall ~~shall~~ must be  
6 commenced within 6 years after it is committed.

7 **Sec. 2. 15 MRSA §3105-A, sub-§2, ¶A-1** is enacted to read:

8 A-1. A prosecution for the juvenile crime, if the victim had not attained 16 years of  
9 age at the time of the crime, of unlawful sexual contact under Title 17-A, section 255-  
10 A or gross sexual assault under Title 17-A, section 253 must be commenced within  
11 12 years after it is committed.

12 **SUMMARY**

13 Current law provides no statute of limitations for the prosecution of the juvenile  
14 crimes of gross sexual assault and unlawful sexual contact if the victim was under 16  
15 years of age and the juvenile accused of the crime was at least 16 years of age. If the  
16 accused juvenile is under 16 years of age, the prosecution must be brought within 6 years  
17 after it is committed. This bill extends the statute of limitations to 12 years when the  
18 victim was under 16, the juvenile crime was unlawful sexual contact or gross sexual  
19 assault and the accused juvenile was under 16 years of age at the time of the crime.