



# ***ENACTMENT NEWS***

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## **House Bill 6** **Rape Statute of Limitations** Effective July 16, 2015

On July 16, 2015, Governor John Kasich signed into law House Bill 6, sponsored by Representatives Sarah LaTourette and Stephanie Kunze. Because the General Assembly passed the bill as an emergency measure, the act takes effect immediately.

### **Extension of Statute of Limitations for Rape and Sexual Battery**

House Bill 6 extends the statute of limitations for prosecution of violations of R.C. 2907.02 (rape) and R.C. 2907.03 (sexual battery) from twenty years to twenty-five years.

### **Statute of Limitations and DNA test matches**

If a DNA record made during a rape or sexual-battery investigation is determined to match the DNA of an identifiable person, and that determination is made after the 25-year statute of limitations has run, House Bill 6 allows for an additional five years to commence prosecution, starting from the time the DNA match is made. If such a match is made within the 25-year period, then the statute of limitations for rape or sexual battery shall be 25 years from the time of the offense, or five years from the time the match is made, whichever is longer.

### **Applicability and retroactivity**

House Bill 6 states that its provisions are applicable to offenses that occurred before its effective date only if, upon the effective date, prosecution was not already barred by the statute of limitations.