



Fact Sheet Series for the 135th General Assembly

House Bill 35:

Eliminate limitations period for certain sexual abuse claims

Sponsors: Representative Miranda, Representative Seitz

Current law:

In Ohio, the civil statute of limitations for victims of child sexual abuse is 12 years after the victim reaches the age of majority at 18 years old ([ORC 2305.111](#)). A civil action may be brought in this 12-year period until the victim reaches the age of 30.

If passed, this legislation would:

- Eliminate the current 12-year statute of limitations for an action based on childhood sexual abuse brought by a victim of child sexual abuse only for purposes of making claims against a bankruptcy estate
 - As an exception, the bill specifies that such bankruptcy estates must be an organization chartered under part B of subtitle II of Title 36 of the United States Code.
- Sunset the above provisions five years after the bill's effective date
 - The bill sunsets, or retires, its provisions five years after its effective date. ORC 2305.111 will return to the version that is in current law on that date.
- Name the act the Scout's Honor Law

Why this bill is important:

- This bill seeks to allow adult survivors of child sexual abuse from the Boy Scouts of America organization to pursue the full amount of financial relief owed to them from the organization's bankruptcy settlement. No barrier should prevent a victim from seeking compensation for their pain and suffering.
- Sexual violence profoundly impacts victims across their lifespan. As sex crimes and their subsequent impacts to victims vary greatly, it is OAESV's position that the government should not interfere with the ability of victims to access the justice system.
- The average age at the time of [reporting child sexual abuse is about 52 years old](#).
- Delayed disclosure, coupled with narrow statutes of limitations, impact the path to justice and compensation for survivors. By the time most survivors come forward about their abuse, the statutes of limitation for filing legal claims have expired. Simply put, the doors to justice are locked and many survivors of child sexual abuse are denied a crucial path to healing.