



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: House Second
Reading
Date: 2/17/2016

Bill Number

House Bill 16-1260

Sponsors

Representative Fields
Senator Cooke

Short Title

Extend Statute Of Limitations
Sexual Assault

Research Analyst

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Status

The bill is pending before the House on second reading. This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary

This bill extends the criminal statute of limitations for felony sexual assault to 20 years. The sexual assault offenses covered by the bill may be class 2, 3, or 4 felonies, depending on the circumstances.

Background

A statute of limitations is the maximum amount of time allowed by law after an event occurs before which legal proceedings must commence. Colorado currently has no criminal statute of limitations for murder, kidnapping, treason, any sexual offenses against children, and any forgery (including attempt, conspiracy, and solicitation to commit these crimes). The statute of limitations for all other felony sexual offenses is at least ten years, although the time limit may be extended under certain circumstances.

House Action

House Judiciary Committee (February 11, 2016). At the hearing, a number of private citizens and representatives of various law enforcement and victims advocacy organizations testified in support of the bill. A representative of the Office of the State Public Defender and the

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Colorado Criminal Defense Bar testified in opposition to the bill. The committee referred the bill, unamended, to the House Committee of the Whole.