



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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SEXUAL ABUSE: LAWSUITS

House Bill 4518

Sponsor: Rep Richard Bandstra

Committee: Judiciary

Complete to 4-16-93

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4518 AS INTRODUCED 3-18-93

The Revised Judicature Act generally requires a civil lawsuit to be brought within six years after a claim accrues, but the law makes a number of exceptions to this. For matters other than medical malpractice, generally, if the person was a minor at the time a claim accrued, he or she has until his or her nineteenth birthday to file suit, even though the statute of limitations had expired.

The bill would extend the statute of limitations for bringing a lawsuit for sexual abuse committed by a family member or household member. Under the bill, a person could bring a personal injury action up to three years after he or she achieved the age of majority or within three years after he or she discovered or should have discovered that the sexual abuse caused the injury, whichever was later. If more than one act of sexual abuse was involved, the deadline would be three years after attaining the age of majority or three years after the plaintiff discovered or should have discovered the effect of the injury attributable to any one of the acts of abuse or of the series of acts, whichever was later.

MCL 600.5857

House Bill 4518 (4-16-93)