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SENATE BILL

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Katy M. Duhigg and Meredith A. Dixon

AN ACT

RELATING TO LIMITATIONS OF ACTIONS; ELIMINATING THE STATUTE OF
LIMITATIONS FOR ACTIONS FOR DAMAGES DUE TO CHILDHOOD SEXUAL
ABUSE; APPLYING THE ELIMINATION OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS
FOR ACTIONS FOR DAMAGES DUE TO CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE
RETROACTIVELY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 37-1-30 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993,
Chapter 136, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"37-1-30. ACTION FOR DAMAGES DUE TO CHILDHOOD SEXUAL
ABUSE--LIMITATION ON ACTIONS.--

A. An action for damages based on personal injury
caused by childhood sexual abuse [~~shall be commenced by a
person before the latest of the following dates:~~

~~(1) the first instant of the person's twenty-~~

1 ~~fourth birthday; or~~

2 ~~(2) three years from the date that a person~~
3 ~~first disclosed the person's childhood sexual abuse to a~~
4 ~~licensed medical or mental health care provider in the context~~
5 ~~of receiving health care from the provider] may be commenced at~~
6 any time.

7 B. As used in this section, "childhood sexual
8 abuse" means conduct that, if prosecuted in a criminal matter,
9 would constitute a violation of:

10 (1) Section 30-9-11 NMSA 1978, regarding
11 criminal sexual penetration of a minor;

12 (2) Section 30-9-13 NMSA 1978, regarding
13 criminal sexual contact of a minor; or

14 (3) the Sexual Exploitation of Children Act.

15 C. The provisions of Section 37-1-8 NMSA 1978 and
16 any statutes of limitation therein shall not apply to causes of
17 action for childhood sexual abuse.

18 D. This section is retroactive and applies to all
19 actions not currently pending based upon childhood sexual abuse
20 regardless of the date of the childhood sexual abuse and
21 regardless of whether any statute of limitations on such
22 actions expired prior to the effective date of this 2023 act."