

By Mrs. Gray of Framingham, petition of Barbara E. Gray, Warren E. Tolman, Susan D. Schur, Carol C. Cleven, Barbara Gardner and Lida E. Harkins for legislation to further regulate the statute of limitations for filing civil damage suits by minor victims of sexual abuse. The Judiciary.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-One.

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR FILING CIVIL DAMAGE SUITS BY MINOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Section 1 of chapter 260 of the Massachusetts General Laws
2 as appearing in the 1988 Official Edition is amended by inserting
3 after section 4B the following new section: —

4 Section 4C. Actions for assault and battery alleging the
5 defendant sexually abused a minor shall be commenced within
6 three years of the acts alleged to have caused an injury or condition
7 or within three years of the time the victim discovered or
8 reasonably should have discovered that an emotional or
9 psychological injury or condition was caused by said act,
10 whichever period expires later; provided, however, that the time
11 limit for commencement of an action under this section is tolled
12 for a child until the child reaches eighteen years of age.

13 For purposes of this section, "sexual abuse" shall mean the
14 commission of any act against a minor as set forth in section
15 thirteen B, thirteen H, twenty-two, twenty-two A, twenty-three,
16 twenty-four, or twenty-four B of Chapter two hundred and sixty-
17 five or section two, three, four, four A, four B, five, seven, eight,
18 thirteen, seventeen, twenty-nine A, thirty-four, thirty-five, or
19 thirty-five A of chapter two hundred and seventy-two.

