

STATE OF MAINE

—  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

—  
H.P. 1484 - L.D. 2207

**An Act Regarding the Statute of Limitations for Certain Sexual Offenses  
Committed Against Minors**

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

**Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §8, sub-§1**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 475, §2 and affected by §3, is further amended to read:

1. It is a defense that prosecution was commenced after the expiration of the applicable period of limitations provided in this section, except that the following prosecutions may be commenced at any time:

A. A prosecution for murder or criminal homicide in the first or 2nd degree; or

B. If the victim had not attained the age of 18 years at the time of the crime, a prosecution for incest; unlawful sexual contact; sexual abuse of a minor; rape or gross sexual assault, formerly denominated as gross sexual misconduct; unlawful sexual touching; or sexual exploitation of a minor; or

C. If the victim had not attained the age of 18 years at the time of the crime, a prosecution for aggravated sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of a minor. The provisions of this paragraph apply only to those crimes of aggravated sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation of a minor committed on or after September 1, 2026 or for which the prosecution was not barred by the statute of limitations in force immediately prior to September 1, 2026.

**Sec. 2. 17-A MRSA §8, sub-§2-A**, as amended by PL 2025, c. 479, §1, is further amended to read:

**2-A.** A Except as provided in subsection 1, paragraphs B and C, a prosecution for a Class A, Class B or Class C crime involving unlawful sexual contact or gross sexual assault or a prosecution for a Class A or Class B crime involving aggravated sex trafficking must be commenced within 20 years after it is committed.

This subsection does not apply to a Class D crime enhanced to a Class C crime pursuant to section 1604, subsection 5, paragraph B.