

SENATE BILL NO. 104  
INTRODUCED BY C. SQUIRES  
BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT SPECIFYING THAT THE TIME WITHIN WHICH TO BEGIN A PROSECUTION FOR CERTAIN SEX OFFENSES INCLUDES WHEN THE IDENTITY OF THE SUSPECT WHO IS CHARGED WITH THE OFFENSE IS ESTABLISHED BY DNA EVIDENCE; AND AMENDING SECTION 45-1-205, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**Section 1.** Section 45-1-205, MCA, is amended to read:

**"45-1-205. General time limitations.** (1) (a) A prosecution for deliberate, mitigated, or negligent homicide may be commenced at any time.

(b) A prosecution for a felony offense under 45-5-502, 45-5-503, or 45-5-507(4) may be commenced within 10 years after it the latest of:

(i) the date on which the offense is committed,~~except that it may be commenced within 10 years after;~~

(ii) the date on which the victim reaches 18 years of age if the victim was less than 18 years of age at the time that the offense occurred; or

(iii) the date on which the identity of the suspect who is charged with the offense is conclusively identified by DNA testing, as defined in 44-6-101.

(c) A prosecution for a misdemeanor offense under those provisions may be commenced within 1 year after the offense is committed, except that it may be commenced within 5 years after the victim reaches 18 years of age if the victim was less than 18 years of age at the time that the offense occurred.

(~~e~~)(d) A prosecution under 45-5-504, 45-5-505, 45-5-507(1), (2), (3), or (5), 45-5-625, or 45-5-627 may be commenced within 5 years after the latest of:

(i) the date on which the offense is committed;

(ii) the date on which the victim reaches 18 years of age if the victim was less than 18 years of age at the time that the offense occurred; or

(iii) the date on which the identity of the suspect who is charged with the offense is conclusively identified by DNA testing, as defined in 44-6-101.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (7)(b) or as otherwise provided by law, prosecutions for other offenses are subject to the following periods of limitation:

(a) A prosecution for a felony must be commenced within 5 years after it is committed.

(b) A prosecution for a misdemeanor must be commenced within 1 year after it is committed.

(3) The periods prescribed in subsection (2) are extended in a prosecution for theft involving a breach of fiduciary obligation to an aggrieved person as follows:

(a) if the aggrieved person is a minor or incompetent, during the minority or incompetency or within 1 year after the termination of the minority or incompetency;

(b) in any other instance, within 1 year after the discovery of the offense by the aggrieved person or by a person who has legal capacity to represent an aggrieved person or has a legal duty to report the offense and is not personally a party to the offense or, in the absence of discovery, within 1 year after the prosecuting officer becomes aware of the offense.

(4) The period prescribed in subsection (2) must be extended in a prosecution for unlawful use of a computer, and prosecution must be brought within 1 year after the discovery of the offense by the aggrieved person or by a person who has legal capacity to represent an aggrieved person or has a legal duty to report the offense and is not personally a party to the offense or, in the absence of discovery, within 1 year after the prosecuting officer becomes aware of the offense.

(5) The period prescribed in subsection (2) is extended in a prosecution for misdemeanor fish and wildlife violations under Title 87, and prosecution must be brought within 3 years after an offense is committed.

(6) The period prescribed in subsection (2)(b) is extended in a prosecution for misdemeanor violations of the laws regulating the activities of outfitters and guides under Title 37, chapter 47, and prosecution must be brought within 3 years after an offense is committed.

(7) (a) An offense is committed either when every element occurs or, when the offense is based upon a continuing course of conduct, at the time when the course of conduct is terminated. Time starts to run on the day after the offense is committed.

(b) A prosecution for theft under 45-6-301 may be commenced at any time during the 5 years following the date of the theft, whether or not the offender is in possession of or otherwise exerting unauthorized control over the property at the time the prosecution is commenced. After the 5-year period ends, a prosecution may be commenced at any time if the offender is still in possession of or otherwise exerting unauthorized control over the property, except that the prosecution must be commenced within 1 year after the investigating officer discovers that the offender still possesses or is otherwise exerting unauthorized control over the property.

(8) A prosecution is commenced either when an indictment is found or an information or complaint is filed."

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