



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Bill to Help Sexual Assault Victims Signed into Law

MADISON – Today, State Senators Devin LeMahieu (R-Oostburg) and Julie Lassa (D-Stevens Point), along with State Representative Samantha Kerman (R-Salem) commented on Senate Bill 170 being signed into law. Senate Bill 170 extends the criminal statute of limitations for second and third degree sexual assault from 6 to 10 years. This change will bring Wisconsin in line with other states across the nation, as a majority of states have their statute of limitations set at 10 years or more for similar crimes.

“The idea for this law was brought forward to me by a constituent who was sexually assaulted in college. Unfortunately, when she was ready to come forward the statutes of limitations had expired and now the offender is free from any potential consequences.” Sen. LeMahieu stated.

“Sexual assault is an issue that affects every community and college campus across our state. In a recent survey conducted by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, more than *one in four* female undergrad students reported being sexually assaulted.” Rep. Kerkman added. “The numbers are staggering. In Wisconsin: 390,000 women have experienced rape, and nearly 1.5 million men and women have experienced other forms of sexual violence.”

“This new law will give victims of date rape and sexual assault under threat of violence greater opportunity to bring their attackers to justice,” Sen. Lassa said. “Given the trauma suffered by sexual assault victims, we need to give them ample time to report the crimes committed against them. The bill passed the Legislature overwhelmingly, and I’m glad and that the Governor gave it his support.”

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