

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 3384

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED OCTOBER 15, 2026

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman DAN HUTCHISON

District 4 (Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Murphy, Reynolds-Jackson, Speight, Bagolie and

Assemblyman Scharfenberger

SYNOPSIS

Eliminates statute of limitations for human trafficking and criminal sexual contact prosecutions and eliminates statute of limitations for civil cases arising from human trafficking.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Assembly Judiciary Committee.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/22/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning the statute of limitations for human trafficking
2 and criminal sexual contact cases, and amending N.J.S.2C:1-6
3 and P.L.2013, c.51.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. N.J.S.2C:1-6 is amended to read as follows:

9 2C:1-6. Time Limitations. a. (1) A prosecution for any offense
10 set forth in N.J.S.2C:11-3, N.J.S.2C:11-4, section 1 of P.L.2005,
11 c.77 (C.2C:13-8), sections 5 and 12 of P.L.2013, c.51 (C.2C:13-9
12 and C.2C:13-10), N.J.S.2C:14-2, subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:14-3, or
13 sections 1 through 5 of P.L.2002, c.26 (C.2C:38-1 through C.2C:38-
14 5) may be commenced at any time.

15 (2) A prosecution for any offense set forth in N.J.S.2C:17-2,
16 section 9 of P.L.1970, c.39 (C.13:1E-9), section 20 of P.L.1989,
17 c.34 (C.13:1E-48.20), section 19 of P.L.1954, c.212 (C.26:2C-19),
18 section 10 of P.L.1984, c.173 (C.34:5A-41), or section 10 of
19 P.L.1977, c.74 (C.58:10A-10) may be commenced at any time.

20 b. Except as otherwise provided in this section, prosecutions
21 for other offenses are subject to the following periods of
22 limitations:

23 (1) A prosecution for a crime must be commenced within five
24 years after it is committed;

25 (2) A prosecution for a disorderly persons offense or petty
26 disorderly persons offense must be commenced within one year
27 after it is committed;

28 (3) A prosecution for any offense set forth in N.J.S.2C:27-2,
29 N.J.S.2C:27-4, N.J.S.2C:27-6, N.J.S.2C:27-7, N.J.S.2C:29-4,
30 N.J.S.2C:30-2, N.J.S.2C:30-3, or any attempt or conspiracy to
31 commit such an offense, must be commenced within seven years
32 after the commission of the offense;

33 (4) A prosecution for an offense set forth in **[N.J.S.2C:14-3 or]**
34 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:14-3 or N.J.S.2C:24-4, when the victim at
35 the time of the offense is below the age of 18 years, must be
36 commenced within five years of the victim's attaining the age of 18
37 or within two years of the discovery of the offense by the victim,
38 whichever is later;

39 (5) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2007, c.131).

40 c. An offense is committed either when every element occurs
41 or, if a legislative purpose to prohibit a continuing course of
42 conduct plainly appears, at the time when the course of conduct or
43 the defendant's complicity therein is terminated. Time starts to run
44 on the day after the offense is committed, except that when the
45 prosecution is supported by physical evidence that identifies the

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 actor by means of DNA testing or fingerprint analysis, time does
2 not start to run until the State is in possession of both the physical
3 evidence and the DNA or fingerprint evidence necessary to
4 establish the identification of the actor by means of comparison to
5 the physical evidence.

6 d. A prosecution is commenced for a crime when an indictment
7 is found and for a nonindictable offense when a warrant or other
8 process is issued, provided that such warrant or process is executed
9 without unreasonable delay. Nothing contained in this section,
10 however, shall be deemed to prohibit the downgrading of an offense
11 at any time if the prosecution of the greater offense was commenced
12 within the statute of limitations applicable to the greater offense.

13 e. The period of limitation does not run during any time when a
14 prosecution against the accused for the same conduct is pending in
15 this State.

16 f. The limitations in this section shall not apply to any person
17 fleeing from justice.

18 g. Except as otherwise provided in this code, no civil action
19 shall be brought pursuant to this code more than five years after
20 such action accrues.

21 (cf: P.L.2007, c.131, s.1)

22
23 2. Section 4 of P.L.2013, c.51 (C.2C:13-8.1) is amended to read
24 as follows:

25 4. a. Any person injured, including injury due to the loss of
26 moneys or property, real or personal, as a result of the commission
27 of a human trafficking offense in violation of section 1 of P.L.2005,
28 c.77 (C.2C:13-8), or section 5 of P.L.2013, c.51 (C.2C:13-9), may
29 bring a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction against:
30 (1) the offender; (2) all those acting in concert with that offender;
31 (3) all those **【**knowingly deriving a**】** who derive a direct or indirect
32 pecuniary benefit from the offense, whether or not these parties are
33 acting in concert with the offender, knowing or in reckless
34 disregard that the pecuniary benefit they derived was from the
35 human trafficking offense; and (4) all those **【**knowingly
36 maintaining**】** who maintain any victim of the offense, whether or
37 not these parties are acting in concert with the offender, knowing or
38 in reckless disregard that the person they maintained was the victim
39 of the human trafficking offense. A civil action brought under this
40 section shall not preclude the application of any other civil,
41 administrative, or criminal remedy under any other provision of
42 law.

43 b. (1) The standard of proof in a civil action brought pursuant to
44 this section is a preponderance of the evidence, and the fact that a
45 prosecution against the offending actor is not instituted or,
46 whenever instituted, terminates without a conviction, shall not
47 preclude a civil action.

1 (2) A final judgment rendered in favor of the State in any
2 criminal proceeding shall estop the defendant from denying the
3 same conduct in any civil action brought pursuant to this section.

4 c. In any civil action brought pursuant to this section, the court
5 shall, in addition to any other appropriate legal or equitable relief,
6 including damages for pain and suffering, recovery of reasonable
7 costs for necessary medical, dental, and psychological services and
8 punitive damages, award damages in an amount that is the greater
9 of:

10 (1) the gross income or value to the defendant of the injured
11 party's labor or services; or

12 (2) the value of the injured party's labor or services as
13 determined by the "New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act," P.L.1963,
14 c.150 (C.34:11-56.25 et seq.), the "New Jersey State Wage and
15 Hour Law," P.L.1966, c.113 (C.34:11-56a et seq.), the Seasonal
16 Farm Labor Act, P.L.1945, c.71 (C.34:9A-1 et seq.), the laws
17 concerning the regulation of child labor in chapter 2 of Title 34 of
18 the Revised Statutes, or any other applicable State law, and the
19 "Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938," 29 U.S.C. s.201 et seq., or any
20 other applicable federal law.

21 d. In addition to any damages, penalty, injunction, or other
22 appropriate relief awarded in an action brought pursuant to this
23 section, the court may award to the injured person bringing suit
24 reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

25 e. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection g. of
26 N.J.S.2C:1-6 or any other provision of law, a civil action brought
27 under this section may be commenced at any time.

28 (cf: P.L.2023, c.208, s.1)

29

30 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall be applicable
31 to all offenses not yet barred from prosecution, and to all civil
32 causes of action not yet barred from filing, under the statute of
33 limitations as of the effective date.