



SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

Oregon State Legislature
State Capitol
Salem, OR

NEWS RELEASE

February 26, 2016

CONTACT: Rick Osborn (503) 986-1074
Rick.osborn@state.or.us

Senate Democrats support justice for sexual assault victims

Bill removes statute of limitations on first-degree sex crimes with corroborating evidence

SALEM – The Oregon Senate Democrats voted today to support victims of sexual assault by eliminating the statute of limitations on first-degree sex crimes, under certain circumstances.

Senate Bill 1600 – which passed by a 24-3 vote on the Senate floor – authorizes the prosecution of first-degree sex crimes any time after the crime is committed, if the prosecuting attorney obtains additional evidence. Last session, the Legislature doubled the statute of limitations for non-DNA evidence sex cases to 12 years.

“This bill removes the statute of limitations on non-DNA first-degree sex cases when there is corroborating evidence that should be considered in the case,” said Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene), who carried the bill. “It helps create greater opportunity for victims of these horrendous crimes to see justice served.”

In order to seek prosecution outside of the current 12-year statute of limitations on first-degree sex crimes, a prosecutor must obtain corroborating evidence which can include non-DNA physical evidence, such as a video or audio recording; confession by the defendant to that particular crime; statements by the victim made close in time to the alleged crime; or when multiple victims come forward alleging crimes similar enough to be on the same list of charges. Senate Bill 1600 now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

###