

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2397

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to States that extend or eliminate unexpired statutes of limitations applicable to laws involving child sexual abuse.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 10, 2015

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. SCHUMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to States that extend or eliminate unexpired statutes of limitations applicable to laws involving child sexual abuse.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Child Abuse Prevention and
5 Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) is amended by
6 adding at the end the following:

1 **“TITLE III—GRANTS FOR THE**
2 **PREVENTION OF CHILD SEX-**
3 **UAL ABUSE**

4 **“SEC. 301. FINDINGS.**

5 “Congress finds that—

6 “(1) child sexual abuse is a pernicious crime
7 perpetrated through threats of violence, intimidation,
8 manipulation, and abuse of power;

9 “(2) due to the subversive nature of this crime,
10 the average age of disclosure of incestuous child sex-
11 ual abuse does not occur until a victim is over 25
12 years old;

13 “(3) because many State statutes of limitations
14 applicable to laws involving child sexual abuse fail to
15 give victims adequate time to come forward and re-
16 port their abuse, numerous victims are unable to
17 seek fair and just remediation against their abusers;
18 and

19 “(4) due to the especially heinous nature of
20 child sexual abuse, it is imperative that perpetrators
21 of this crime are punished, prevented from re-
22 offending, and victims have the opportunity to see
23 their abusers brought to justice.

24 **“SEC. 302. DEFINITIONS.**

25 “In this title—

1 “(1) the term ‘eligible State’ means a State or
2 Indian tribe that, not later than September 30 of
3 the preceding fiscal year does not have any statute
4 of limitations applicable to laws involving child sex-
5 ual abuse; and

6 “(2) the term ‘Indian tribe’ means a tribe iden-
7 tified in the list published by the Secretary of the
8 Interior in the Federal Register pursuant to section
9 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List
10 Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 479a–1).

11 **“SEC. 303. GRANT PROGRAM.**

12 “The Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney
13 General, is authorized to make grants to eligible States
14 for the purpose of assisting eligible States in developing,
15 establishing, and operating programs designed to im-
16 prove—

17 “(1) the assessment and investigation of sus-
18 pected child sexual abuse cases, in a manner that
19 limits additional trauma to the child and the family
20 of the child;

21 “(2) the investigation and prosecution of cases
22 of child sexual abuse; and

23 “(3) the assessment and investigation of cases
24 involving children with disabilities or serious health-

1 related problems who are suspected victims of child
2 sexual abuse.

3 **“SEC. 304. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 “There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this title \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016
6 through 2025.”.

7 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
8 subsection (a) shall apply to any violation of a law involv-
9 ing child sexual abuse committed before the date of the
10 enactment of this Act if the statute of limitations applica-
11 ble to that law had not run as of the date of enactment
12 of this Act.

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