

HB 1617 -- CIVIL ACTIONS FOR CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE

SPONSOR: Seitz

This bill amends Section 537.046, RSMo, to add to the definition of "childhood sexual abuse" the offenses of rape in the second degree, sodomy in the second degree, sexual abuse in the second degree, sexual trafficking of a child in the first degree, sexual trafficking of a child in the second degree, sexual exploitation of a minor, and child used in a sexual performance. Currently, a person may file a cause of action to recover damages from injury or illness caused by childhood sexual abuse. As specified in this bill, a person could file a cause of action to recover damages from injury or illness caused by tortious conduct that caused the victim to be a victim of childhood sexual abuse. Under this bill, either of such actions must be brought within 20 years of the plaintiff reaching the age of 21 or within three years of the date the plaintiff discovers or reasonably should have discovered that the injury or illness was caused by childhood sexual abuse, whichever is later. The current statute of limitation is within 10 years of the plaintiff reaching the age of 21 or within three years of the date the plaintiff discovers or reasonably should have discovered that the injury or illness was caused by childhood sexual abuse, whichever is later.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 367 (2023).