

**Senate File 67 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 67  
BY SALMON and WESTRICH

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act modifying the periods of time to bring certain civil  
2 actions, including by victims of sexual abuse, minors, and  
3 persons with mental illness, entitling certain cases to  
4 a preference in trial order, and including effective date  
5 provisions.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 602.1205, Code 2025, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. a. The district court shall try civil  
4 cases in the order in which cases are initiated by the filing of  
5 a petition, provided that the following cases shall be entitled  
6 to a preference:

7 (1) Actions that have been revived pursuant to section 614.1,  
8 subsection 12, paragraph "b", or section 614.8A, subsection 2.

9 This subparagraph is repealed July 1, 2031.

10 (2) An action in which the interests of justice, as  
11 determined by the supreme court, will be served by early trial.

12 b. The supreme court shall prescribe rules to implement this  
13 subsection.

14 c. Unless the court otherwise orders, notice of a motion for  
15 preference shall be served with the petition by the party serving  
16 the petition, or ten days after such service by any other party.

17 Sec. 2. Section 614.1, subsection 12, Code 2025, is amended  
18 to read as follows:

19 12. *Sexual abuse or sexual exploitation by a counselor,*  
20 *therapist, school employee, or adult providing training or*  
21 *instruction. An*

22 a. (1) If the victim was eighteen years of age or older,  
23 an action for damages for injury suffered as a result of sexual  
24 abuse, as defined in section 709.1, by a counselor, therapist,  
25 school employee, or adult providing training or instruction, as  
26 defined in section 709.15, or as a result of sexual exploitation  
27 by a counselor, therapist, school employee, or adult providing  
28 training or instruction shall be brought within five years of the  
29 date the victim was last treated by the counselor or therapist,  
30 or within five years of the date the victim was last enrolled in  
31 or attended the school.

32 (2) If the victim was a minor, an action for damages for  
33 injury suffered as a result of sexual abuse, as defined in  
34 section 709.1, by a counselor, therapist, school employee, or  
35 adult providing training or instruction, as defined in section

1 709.15, or as a result of sexual exploitation by a counselor,  
2 therapist, school employee, or adult providing training or  
3 instruction may be brought at any time.

4 b. (1) Notwithstanding paragraph "a", subparagraph (2),  
5 every claim or cause of action brought against any party alleging  
6 intentional or negligent acts or omissions by a person for  
7 physical, psychological, or other injury or condition suffered  
8 as a result of conduct which would constitute sexual abuse,  
9 as defined in section 709.1, by a counselor, therapist, school  
10 employee, or adult providing training or instruction, as defined  
11 in section 709.15, or as a result of sexual exploitation by  
12 a counselor, therapist, school employee, or adult providing  
13 training or instruction, which is barred as of the effective  
14 date of this Act because the applicable period of limitation has  
15 expired or the plaintiff previously failed to file a petition,  
16 is hereby revived, and action thereon may be commenced not later  
17 than three years after the effective date of this Act.

18 (2) Dismissal of a previous action, ordered before the  
19 effective date of this Act, on grounds that such previous action  
20 was time-barred, or for failure of a party to file a petition,  
21 shall not be grounds for dismissal of a revival action pursuant  
22 to this paragraph.

23 (3) This paragraph is repealed July 1, 2031.

24 Sec. 3. Section 614.8, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
25 follows:

26 **614.8 Minors and persons with mental illness.**

27 1. The Except as provided in section 614.1, subsection 12, or  
28 section 614.8A, times limited for actions in this chapter, or for  
29 complaints or claims in chapter 216, 669, or 670, except those  
30 brought for penalties and forfeitures, are extended in favor of  
31 persons with mental illness, so that they shall have one year  
32 from and after the termination of the disability within which  
33 to file a complaint pursuant to chapter 216, to make a claim  
34 pursuant to chapter 669 or 670, or to otherwise commence an  
35 action.

1 2. Except as provided in section 614.1, subsection 9 or 12,  
2 or section 614.8A, the times limited for actions in this chapter,  
3 or for complaints or claims in chapter 216, 659A, 669, or 670,  
4 except those brought for penalties and forfeitures, are extended  
5 in favor of minors, so that they shall have one year from and  
6 after attainment of majority within which to file a complaint  
7 pursuant to chapter 216, to make a claim pursuant to chapter  
8 659A, 669, or 670, or to otherwise commence an action.

9 Sec. 4. Section 614.8A, Code 2025, is amended by striking the  
10 section and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

11 **614.8A Commencement of action for minor or child sexual abuse**  
12 **and other sexual offenses — no time limitation.**

13 1. Notwithstanding the times limited for actions in this  
14 chapter, an action relating to injuries suffered as a result of  
15 sexual abuse as defined in section 709.1, and injuries suffered  
16 as a result of other sexual offenses including but not limited  
17 to lascivious acts with a child in violation of section 709.8,  
18 assault with intent to commit sexual abuse in violation of  
19 section 709.11, indecent contact with a child in violation of  
20 section 709.12, lascivious conduct with a minor in violation of  
21 section 709.14, sexual misconduct with a juvenile in violation of  
22 section 709.16, subsection 2, child endangerment in violation of  
23 section 726.6, or sexual exploitation of a minor in violation of  
24 section 728.12, which occurred when the injured party was a minor  
25 may be brought at any time.

26 2. a. Notwithstanding subsection 1, every claim or cause  
27 of action brought against any party alleging intentional  
28 or negligent acts or omissions by a person for physical,  
29 psychological, or other injury or condition suffered as a result  
30 of conduct described in subsection 1, which is barred as of  
31 the effective date of this Act because the applicable period  
32 of limitation has expired or the plaintiff previously failed to  
33 file a petition, is hereby revived, and action thereon may be  
34 commenced not later than three years after the effective date of  
35 this Act.



1 applicable provisions.

2 Under Code section 614.8A, the bill extends the time for  
3 filing a civil action relating to sexual abuse which occurred  
4 when the injured person was a minor from one year after the  
5 attainment of majority or within four years from the time of  
6 discovery of both the injury and the causal relationship between  
7 the injury and the sexual abuse to any time. The bill also  
8 provides for the filing of civil actions for injuries incurred  
9 from other sexual offenses.

10 The bill provides that claims related to offenses under the  
11 bill that arise prior to the effective date of the bill must  
12 be brought not later than three years after the effective date  
13 of the bill. If an action was previously dismissed before the  
14 effective date of the bill on the grounds that it was time-barred  
15 or because the party failed to file a petition, the party shall  
16 have a right to file a revival action.

17 The bill provides that the district court shall try civil  
18 cases in the order in which cases are initiated by the filing  
19 of a petition, but entitles cases to preference if the cases  
20 have been revived pursuant to Code section 614.1(12)(b) or Code  
21 section 615.8A(2) or actions in which the interests of justice,  
22 as determined by the supreme court, will be served by early  
23 trial. If a party intends to invoke this preference, the  
24 party must serve the notice of a motion for preference with the  
25 petition. Such notice must be served 10 days after such service  
26 by any other party.

27 The bill takes effect upon enactment.