

Senate Bill 333

By: Senators Hecht of the 34th, Walker of the 22nd, Kemp of the 3rd and Starr of the 44th

**AS PASSED SENATE**

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT**

To amend Code Section 17-3-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to limitation on prosecutions generally, so as to provide that a prosecution for serious violent offenses may be commenced at any time; to provide that the age limitation on prosecutions of certain crimes involving children who are victims be increased to age 18; to provide for related matters; to provide for an effective date and applicability; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

**SECTION 1.**

Code Section 17-3-1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to limitation on prosecutions generally, is amended by striking the Code section in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"17-3-1

(a) A prosecution for ~~murder~~ the following offenses may be commenced at any time;

(1) Murder or felony murder, as defined in Code Section 16-5-1;

(2) Armed robbery, as defined in Code Section 16-8-41;

(3) Kidnapping, as defined in Code Section 16-5-40;

(4) Rape, as defined in Code Section 16-6-1;

(5) Aggravated child molestation, as defined in Code Section 16-6-4;

(6) Aggravated sodomy, as defined in Code Section 16-6-2; or

(7) Aggravated sexual battery, as defined in Code Section 16-6-22.2.

(b) Prosecution for other crimes punishable by death or life imprisonment must be commenced within seven years after the commission of the crime; ~~provided, however, that prosecution for the crime of forcible rape must be commenced within 15 years after the commission of the crime.~~

(c) Prosecution for felonies other than those specified in subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section must be commenced within four years after the commission of the crime,

1 provided that prosecution for felonies committed against victims who are at the time of the  
2 commission of the offense under the age of ~~14~~ 18 years must be commenced within seven  
3 years after the commission of the crime.

4 (d) Prosecution for misdemeanors must be commenced within two years after the  
5 commission of the crime."

6 **SECTION 2.**

7 This Act shall be effective on July 1, 2002 and apply to all prosecutions of crimes which  
8 occur on or after July 1, 2002.

9 **SECTION 3.**

10 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.