

The House Committee on Judiciary, Non Civil offers the following substitute to HB 626:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 17-5-71 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 preservation of evidence, so as to extend the retention period of evidence of sexual assault  
3 when the victim chooses not to immediately report the assault; to provide for a short title; to  
4 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Stephanie Colquitt-Shurman Act of 2026."

8 **SECTION 2.**

9 Code Section 17-5-71 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to preservation of  
10 evidence, is amended by revising subsection (b) as follows:

11 "(b) If the victim chooses not to report the alleged sexual assault to law enforcement at the  
12 time of evidence collection, the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction shall maintain  
13 any physical evidence collected as a result of such alleged sexual assault that contains  
14 biological material, including, but not limited to, stains, fluids, or hair samples that relate

15 to the identity of the perpetrator of the alleged sexual assault, for ~~not less than 12 months~~  
16 30 years from the date any such physical evidence is collected."

17 **SECTION 3.**

18 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.