



To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee  
From: Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section,  
Maryland State Bar Association  
Date: February 9, 2024  
Subject: **HB544 - Sexual Extortion, Stalking, and Revenge Porn - Statute of Limitations**  
Position: **SUPPORT**

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The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Supports HB544 - Sexual Extortion, Stalking, and Revenge Porn - Statute of Limitations.**

This bill removes the statute of limitations for the crimes related to sexual extortion, stalking, and revenge porn. These are currently classified as misdemeanors and, as such, carry a limit on the initiation of prosecution of one year.

These are serious crimes with personally devastating consequences that sometimes occur over a period of years. Revenge porn, like the posting of photos and material on social media, for example, can be largely invisible to the victim until much later than the action taken by the perpetrator. A one-year limitation is extremely short given the nature of the crimes and how they are investigated. To really protect victims, charges often need to be filed after the statute of limitations has expired under current law. In the larger context of criminal laws, we believe removing the current statute of limitations is preferable to reclassifying the crimes as felonies, which would achieve the same end but have more far reaching consequences.

For the reasons stated, we **Support HB544 - Sexual Extortion, Stalking, and Revenge Porn - Statute of Limitations**

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at [doyleniemann@gmail.com](mailto:doyleniemann@gmail.com).

Should you have other questions, please contact The MSBA's Legislative Office at (410) 387-5606..