

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 18-0940.01 Richard Sweetman x4333

HOUSE BILL 18-1398

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Gray and Wist,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Gardner,

House Committees
Judiciary

Senate Committees
Finance

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR COMMENCING A**
102 **CIVIL ACTION IN TORT TO RECOVER DAMAGES FOR AN ACT OF**
103 **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill states that any civil action to recover damages caused by an act of domestic violence must be commenced within 6 years after a disability has been removed for a person under disability or within 6 years after a cause of action accrues, whichever occurs later.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 30, 2018

HOUSE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 27, 2018

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 13-80-103.6 as
3 follows:

4 **13-80-103.6. General limitation of actions - domestic violence**

5 **- six years - definition.** (1) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER STATUTE OF
6 LIMITATIONS SPECIFIED IN THIS ARTICLE 80, OR ANY OTHER PROVISION OF
7 LAW THAT CAN BE CONSTRUED TO REDUCE THE STATUTORY PERIOD SET
8 FORTH IN THIS SECTION, ANY CIVIL ACTION TO RECOVER DAMAGES CAUSED
9 BY AN ACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 14-10-124
10 (1.3)(a), MUST BE COMMENCED WITHIN SIX YEARS AFTER A DISABILITY HAS
11 BEEN REMOVED FOR A PERSON UNDER DISABILITY, AS SUCH TERM IS
12 DEFINED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, OR WITHIN SIX YEARS AFTER
13 A CAUSE OF ACTION ACCRUES, WHICHEVER OCCURS LATER, AND NOT
14 THEREAFTER; EXCEPT THAT IN NO EVENT MAY ANY SUCH CIVIL ACTION BE
15 COMMENCED MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE CAUSE OF ACTION
16 ACCRUES.

17 (2) (a) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION, "PERSON UNDER
18 DISABILITY" MEANS ANY PERSON WHO:

19 (I) HAS A BEHAVIORAL OR MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER; AN
20 INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
21 25.5-10-202 (26); OR A TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY, AS DEFINED IN SECTION
22 26-1-301 (3); AND

23 (II) IS PSYCHOLOGICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY UNABLE TO
24 ACKNOWLEDGE THE ACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE RESULTING
25 HARM THAT IS THE BASIS OF THE CIVIL ACTION.

26 (b) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION, WHERE THE PLAINTIFF IS A

1 VICTIM OF A SERIES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSES, THE PLAINTIFF
2 NEED NOT ESTABLISH WHICH ACT OF A SERIES OF ACTS CAUSED THE
3 PLAINTIFF'S INJURY, AND THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN THIS
4 SECTION COMMENCES WITH THE LAST IN THE SERIES OF ACTS, SUBJECT TO
5 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION REGARDING DISABILITY.

6 (c) A PERSON UNDER DISABILITY HAS THE BURDEN OF PROVING
7 THAT:

8 (I) THE ACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THAT IS THE BASIS OF THE
9 CIVIL ACTION OCCURRED; AND

10 (II) HE OR SHE WAS PSYCHOLOGICALLY OR EMOTIONALLY UNABLE
11 TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ACT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE RESULTING
12 HARM.

13 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
14 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
15 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
16 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a
17 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
18 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
19 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
20 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
21 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
22 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.