



**New York State YMCA**  
**Youth And Government**

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**FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®**  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate Freedom 2

Bill #:SF-11

1 **Sponsors:** Melissa Golden and Olivia Kelly

2

3 **An Act To** Amend section §130.96 of NYS consolidated law to raise the age of  
4 classification for victims of first-degree sexual assault from 13 and younger to 15  
5 and younger.

6

7 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

8

9 **Purpose**

10 This bill will provide protection for a greater range of ages for victims of sexual  
11 assault in the first degree.

12

13 **Summary of Provisions**

14 **Section 1**

15 **Rape:** penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part  
16 or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent  
17 of the victim

18 **Victim:** a person harmed, injured, or killed as a result of a crime, accident, or other  
19 event or action

20 **Sexual Assault:** when someone touches any part of another person's body in a  
21 sexual manner, even through clothes, without that person's consent. Sexual  
22 assault includes, but is not limited to attacks such as rape or attempted rape, as  
23 well as any unwanted sexual contact or threats

24 **Predator:** a person or group that violates an individual through the manner of  
25 sexual assault

26

27 **Section 2**

28 §130.96: A person is guilty of predatory sexual assault against a child when, being  
29 eighteen years old or more, he or she commits the crime of rape in the first degree,  
30 criminal sexual act in the first degree, aggravated sexual abuse in the first degree,  
31 or course of sexual conduct against a child in the first degree, as defined in this  
32 article, and the victim is less than thirteen or equal to the age of fifteen years old.

33

34 **Justification**

35 Overall, rape rates in America have increased tremendously. Females ages 16-19  
36 are 4 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape,  
37 attempted rape, or sexual assault. Yes, females under the age of 13 get raped, but  
38 the age for first degree must be raised. 82% of all victims under 18 are female.  
39 One in 9 girls and 1 in 53 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or  
40 assault at the hands of an adult. During a one-year period in the U.S., 16% of  
41 youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized. The law currently states that the



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42 course of sexual contact against a child in the first degree, as defined in this article,  
43 and the victim is less than thirteen years of age. Thirteen, while a decent age, could  
44 be better. As mentioned, most are between 16-19. When raised to the age of 15,  
45 lives will be saved from death and mental health cases. Rape can leave people  
46 feeling alone, ashamed, and scared. The age of thirteen is simply too low. While of  
47 course, rape should never happen, raising the age would be far more beneficial. A  
48 study conducted in 1986 found that 63% of women who had suffered sexual abuse  
49 by a family member also reported a rape or attempted rape after the age of 14.  
50 Recent studies in 2000, 2002, and 2005 have all concluded similar results. The  
51 average woman isn't even fully developed until 22, and the time period most are  
52 sexually assaulted is a prime time in a teen's life. Over the course of their lifetime,  
53 28% of U.S. youth ages 14 to 17 had been sexually victimized.

54

55 **Fiscal Implications**

56 Each sexual assault court case has an average cost of around \$600. Rape results in  
57 more than \$122,000 in costs per victim and nearly \$3.1 trillion to the economy over  
58 the lifetimes of all 25 million victims in the US population. For every rape  
59 prevented, more than \$122,000 in lifetime costs are averted. According to the  
60 Malta Justice Initiative (Including costs such as feeding, housing, and security.) The  
61 average cost of an inmate per year is \$167,731.

62

63 **Environmental Implications**

64 Passage of this bill will have a negligible effect on New York State Environment.

65

66 **Effective Date**

67 The bill will be effective one year after passage.