

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 960

To ensure that homicides can be prosecuted under Federal law without regard to the time elapsed between the act or omission that caused the death of the victim and the death itself.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11 (legislative day, MARCH 10), 2025

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. LEE) introduced the following bill; which was considered, read the third time, and passed

A BILL

To ensure that homicides can be prosecuted under Federal law without regard to the time elapsed between the act or omission that caused the death of the victim and the death itself.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Justice for Murder
5 Victims Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. HOMICIDE OFFENSES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 18, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“§ 1123. No maximum time period between act or**
6 **omission and death of victim**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A prosecution may be instituted
8 for any homicide offense under this title without regard
9 to the time that elapsed between—

10 “(1) the act or omission that caused the death
11 of the victim; and

12 “(2) the death of the victim.

13 “(b) RELATION TO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—
14 Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to supersede
15 the limitations period under section 3282(a), to the extent
16 applicable.

17 “(c) MAXIMUM TIME PERIOD APPLICABLE IF DEATH
18 PENALTY IMPOSED.—A sentence of death may not be im-
19 posed for a homicide offense under this title unless the
20 Government proves beyond a reasonable doubt that not
21 more than 1 year and 1 day elapsed between—

22 “(1) the act or omission that caused the death
23 of the victim; and

24 “(2) the death of the victim.”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of sections for
 2 chapter 51 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
 3 by adding at the end the following:

“1123. No maximum time period between act or omission and death of victim.”.

4 (c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 1123(a) of title 18,
 5 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall
 6 apply with respect to an act or omission described in that
 7 section that occurs after the date of enactment of this Act.

8 (d) MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR FIRST-DEGREE MUR-
 9 DER BASED ON TIME PERIOD BETWEEN ACT OR OMIS-
 10 SION AND DEATH OF VICTIM.—Section 1111(b) of title
 11 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after
 12 “imprisonment for life” the following: “, unless the death
 13 of the victim occurred more than 1 year and 1 day after
 14 the act or omission that caused the death of the victim,
 15 in which case the punishment shall be imprisonment for
 16 any term of years or for life”.

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