



Support HB 5078

The Protect Survivors Reporting Act

Protect survivors from retaliation so they can seek justice and support without fear of lawsuits designed to intimidate and silence them.

Sponsors: Rep. Mary Beth Canty (D-54) and Sen. Mary Edly-Allen (D-31)

Why is HB 5078 Important?

- Gender-based violence (GBV) is a prevalent problem: 45% of women and 16% of men experience sexual violence during their lifetimes (CDC Survey 2023/24). Many survivors are afraid to talk about it, and most incidents of GBV go unreported. Of those reported, only a fraction result in arrest or conviction. Legal protection for survivors who speak about GBV serves the public good.
- The threat of retaliatory lawsuits discourages survivors from reporting GBV to law enforcement and from seeking help. Public discussions about GBV by survivors can reduce stigma. For example, the MeToo movement was found to increase the number of sex crimes reported by approximately 10% ([Yale, 2025](#)).
- Speaking out reduces isolation and feelings of shame and fear. Survivors who share their stories and receive social support show better physical and psychological outcomes ([National Library of Medicine, 2011](#)).

What Does HB 5078 Do?

The bill protects survivors from retaliation by creating an early dismissal process for civil actions filed against survivors because they reported GBV. This legal protection enables survivors to speak about GBV and name their abuser without fear of being pulled into a lengthy and expensive legal process. It allows courts to award prevailing survivors their attorney's fees and costs, injunctive relief, and punitive damages, which should also discourage retaliatory lawsuits.

To protect survivors while allowing legitimate claims to move forward, the bill includes a defense against the motion to dismiss if a plaintiff can establish that the report of GBV was made with the knowledge it was false or with reckless disregard for whether it was false or not.

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