

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3859

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Justice for Murder
3 Victims Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. HOMICIDE OFFENSES.**

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

8 **“§ 1123. No maximum time period between act or
9 omission and death of victim**

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

13 “(1) the act or omission that caused the death
14 of the victim; and

15 “(2) the death of the victim.

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

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

25 “(1) the act or omission that caused the death
26 of the victim; and

1 “(2) the death of the victim.”.

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

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

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

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

Passed the Senate February 29, 2024.

Attest:

Secretary.

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