

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 289

- 01/25/2021 Authored by Edelson, Hassan, Moller, Jurgens, Miller and others  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy
- 02/18/2021 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register  
Read for the Second Time
- 05/17/2021 Pursuant to Rule 4.20, returned to the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to public safety; providing for immunity from prosecution for certain

1.3 controlled substance and alcohol violations for sexual assault victim and persons

1.4 assisting the victim; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter

1.5 604A.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. 604A.06 AID TO SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Person seeking assistance; immunity from prosecution. (a) A person

1.9 acting in good faith who contacts a 911 operator or first responder to report that a sexual

1.10 assault victim is in need of assistance may not be charged or prosecuted for:

1.11 (1) the possession, sharing, or use of a controlled substance under 152.025, or possession

1.12 of drug paraphernalia; and

1.13 (2) if the person is under the age of 21 years, the possession, purchase, or consumption

1.14 of alcoholic beverages under section 340A.503.

1.15 (b) A person qualifies for the immunities provided in this subdivision only if:

1.16 (1) the evidence for the charge or prosecution was obtained as a result of the person's

1.17 seeking assistance for a sexual assault victim; and

1.18 (2) the person seeks assistance for a sexual assault victim who is in need of assistance

1.19 for an immediate health or safety concern, provided that the person who seeks the assistance

1.20 is the first person to seek the assistance, provides a name and contact information, and

1.21 remains on the scene until assistance arrives or is provided.

2.1 (c) This subdivision applies to one or two persons acting in concert with the person  
2.2 initiating contact provided all the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) are met.

2.3 **Subd. 2. Person experiencing sexual assault; immunity from prosecution.** (a) A  
2.4 sexual assault victim who is in need of assistance may not be charged or prosecuted for:

2.5 (1) the possession, sharing, or use of a controlled substance under section 152.025, or  
2.6 possession of drug paraphernalia; and

2.7 (2) if the victim is under the age of 21 years, the possession, purchase, or consumption  
2.8 of alcoholic beverages under section 340A.503.

2.9 (b) A victim qualifies for the immunities provided in this subdivision only if the evidence  
2.10 for the charge or prosecution was obtained as a result of the request for assistance related  
2.11 to the sexual assault.

2.12 **Subd. 3. Persons on probation or release.** A person's pretrial release, probation,  
2.13 furlough, supervised release, or parole shall not be revoked based on an incident for which  
2.14 the person would be immune from prosecution under subdivision 1 or 2.

2.15 **Subd. 4. Effect on other criminal prosecutions.** (a) The act of providing assistance to  
2.16 a sexual assault victim may be used as a mitigating factor in a criminal prosecution for  
2.17 which immunity is not provided.

2.18 (b) Nothing in this section shall:

2.19 (1) be construed to bar the admissibility of any evidence obtained in connection with  
2.20 the investigation and prosecution of other crimes or violations committed by a person who  
2.21 otherwise qualifies for limited immunity under this section;

2.22 (2) preclude prosecution of a person on the basis of evidence obtained from an  
2.23 independent source;

2.24 (3) be construed to limit, modify, or remove any immunity from liability currently  
2.25 available to public entities, public employees by law, or prosecutors; or

2.26 (4) prevent probation officers from conducting drug or alcohol testing of persons on  
2.27 pretrial release, probation, furlough, supervised release, or parole.

2.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to actions  
2.29 arising from incidents occurring on or after that date.