

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3596

To direct the Judicial Conference to submit a report examining an amendment to the Federal Rules of Evidence to further limit admissibility of evidence regarding an alleged victim’s sexual behavior or predisposition and to improve privacy protections for admissible evidence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2025

Ms. MACE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To direct the Judicial Conference to submit a report examining an amendment to the Federal Rules of Evidence to further limit admissibility of evidence regarding an alleged victim’s sexual behavior or predisposition and to improve privacy protections for admissible evidence.

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 “Rape Shield Enhance-
5 ment Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON AMENDMENT TO THE RULES OF EVI-**
2 **DENCE TO FURTHER LIMIT ADMISSIBILITY**
3 **OF EVIDENCE REGARDING AN ALLEGED VIC-**
4 **TIM'S SEXUAL BEHAVIOR OR PREDISPOSI-**
5 **TION AND TO IMPROVE PRIVACY PROTEC-**
6 **TIONS FOR ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE.**

7 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
8 of this Act, the Judicial Conference shall submit to Con-
9 gress—

10 (1) a report reviewing Rule 412 of the Federal
11 Rules of Evidence, and identify amendments, in ac-
12 cordance with chapter 131 of title 28, United States
13 Code, limited in scope to—

14 (A) further limiting the admissibility of
15 evidence regarding the sexual behavior or pre-
16 disposition of an alleged victim of sexual as-
17 sault; and

18 (B) improving privacy protections for ad-
19 missible evidence related to the sexual behavior
20 or predisposition of an alleged victim of sexual
21 assault, including the subsequent disclosure of
22 such evidence;

23 (2) a report reviewing Rule 26 of the Federal
24 Rules of Civil Procedure, and identify amendments,
25 in accordance with chapter 131 of title 28, United
26 States Code, that would—

1 (A) narrow the scope of permissible dis-
2 covery requests to limit inquiries into the per-
3 sonal, financial, social, psychological, sexual,
4 medical, or other private or confidential records
5 or history of an alleged victim of sexual assault,
6 unless directly relevant to the case;

7 (B) establish clearer protections for the
8 privacy of such an alleged victim, including lim-
9 itations on subsequent disclosures of personal,
10 financial, social, psychological, sexual, medical,
11 or other private or confidential records or his-
12 tory of an alleged victim of sexual assault; and

13 (C) ensure that discovery practices are
14 consistent with Federal law protecting the
15 rights of such an alleged victim; and

16 (3) a report reviewing Rule 16 of the Federal
17 Rules of Criminal Procedure, and identify amend-
18 ments, in accordance with chapter 131 of title 28,
19 United States Code, that would—

20 (A) narrow the scope of permissible dis-
21 covery requests to limit inquiries into the per-
22 sonal, financial, social, psychological, sexual,
23 medical, or other private or confidential records
24 or history of an alleged victim of sexual assault,
25 unless directly relevant to the case;

1 (B) establish clearer protections for the
2 privacy of such an alleged victim, including lim-
3 itations on subsequent disclosures of personal,
4 financial, social, psychological, sexual, medical,
5 or other private or confidential records or his-
6 tory of an alleged victim of sexual assault; and

7 (C) ensure that discovery practices are
8 consistent with Federal law protecting the
9 rights of such an alleged victim.

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