

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## HB 1484

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**As Passed House:**

February 20, 2025

**Title:** An act relating to exceptional sentences for offenses which result in the pregnancy of a victim of rape.

**Brief Description:** Concerning exceptional sentences for offenses which result in the pregnancy of a victim of rape.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Salahuddin, Davis, Duerr, Doglio, Ryu, Reed and Parshley.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Community Safety: 2/3/25, 2/13/25 [DP].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House: 2/20/25, 97-0.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Modifies the statutory list of aggravating circumstances that may support imposition of an exceptional sentence above the standard range to include offenses that result in the pregnancy of a victim of rape, regardless of the victim's age.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY SAFETY

**Majority Report:** Do pass. Signed by 8 members: Representatives Goodman, Chair; Graham, Ranking Minority Member; Griffey, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Burnett, Davis, Farivar, Fosse and Obras.

**Staff:** Corey Patton (786-7388).

**Background:**

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

For most felony offenses, the Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) provides a standard sentence range according to a sentencing grid, which is based on the seriousness level of the offense and the convicted person's offender score. The seriousness level is a designation of the offense's severity, while the offender score is a point calculation based on the convicted person's criminal history.

Under certain circumstances, the court may impose an exceptional sentence outside the standard range. The court must make written findings that a substantial and compelling reason justifies an exceptional sentence. An exceptional sentence may be below the standard range if mitigating circumstances are established by a preponderance of the evidence, or above the standard range in specified situations. The SRA provides an exhaustive list of aggravating circumstances that, if proven beyond a reasonable doubt, may support an exceptional sentence above the standard range. One such aggravating circumstance recognized under the SRA is where the offense resulted in the pregnancy of a child victim of rape.

**Summary of Bill:**

The statutory list of aggravating circumstances that may support imposition of an exceptional sentence above the standard range is modified to include offenses that result in the pregnancy of a victim of rape, regardless of the victim's age.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) Sexual assault is the most heinous crime short of murder. However, it is rare for sexual assault cases to reach sentencing, and perpetrators receive many opportunities to be released earlier than contemplated. Each person affected by these crimes has a unique story. These crimes affect the victim's physical and mental health. Although the specific harms may look different depending on the victim's age, the effects are excruciating nonetheless.

The court is authorized to impose an exceptional sentence for certain aggravating circumstances, which currently only highlights persons under age 18. The importance of the law is to recognize the full scope of harm caused by an offense. There is a lifetime of trauma regardless of whether the victim is a child or an adult. This bill is an important step to ensure victims of rape receive the protections and justice they deserve.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Representative Osman Salahuddin, prime sponsor; Laurel Smith, Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office; and Raquel Rodriguez, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.