



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

**Raised Bill No. 259**

LCO No. 1402



Referred to Committee on JUDICIARY

Introduced by:  
(JUD)

**AN ACT CONCERNING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Except as provided in  
2 subsection (b) of this section, a person is guilty of performing female  
3 genital mutilation when such person knowingly circumcises, excises or  
4 infibulates the whole or any part of the labia majora or labia minora or  
5 clitoris of a person under eighteen years of age.

6 (b) A surgical operation is not a violation of subsection (a) of this  
7 section if such operation is (1) necessary to the health of the person on  
8 whom it is performed and is performed by a physician licensed  
9 pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes; or (2) performed on a  
10 person in labor or who has just given birth for a medical purpose related  
11 to such labor or birth by a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of  
12 the general statutes, a nurse-midwife licensed pursuant to chapter 377  
13 of the general statutes or a person in training to become such a physician  
14 or nurse-midwife. For purposes of this subsection, a surgical operation  
15 is not (A) necessary to the health of the person on whom it is performed,  
16 or (B) for a medical purpose, if the basis for such necessity or purpose is

17 based on the belief of the person performing the operation or any other  
18 person that such operation is required as a matter of custom or ritual.

19 (c) Performing female genital mutilation is a class D felony.

20 Sec. 2. Section 54-86g of the general statutes is repealed and the  
21 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

22 (a) In any criminal prosecution of an offense involving female genital  
23 mutilation, assault, sexual assault or abuse of a child twelve years of age  
24 or younger, the court may, upon motion of the attorney for any party,  
25 order that the testimony of the child be taken in a room other than the  
26 courtroom in the presence and under the supervision of the trial judge  
27 hearing the matter and be televised by closed circuit equipment in the  
28 courtroom or recorded for later showing before the court. Only the  
29 judge, the defendant, the attorneys for the defendant and for the state,  
30 persons necessary to operate the equipment and any person who would  
31 contribute to the welfare and well-being of the child may be present in  
32 the room with the child during his testimony, except that the court may  
33 order the defendant excluded from the room or screened from the sight  
34 and hearing of the child only if the state proves, by clear and convincing  
35 evidence, that the child would be so intimidated, or otherwise inhibited,  
36 by the physical presence of the defendant that a compelling need exists  
37 to take the testimony of the child outside the physical presence of the  
38 defendant in order to insure the reliability of such testimony. If the  
39 defendant is excluded from the room or screened from the sight and  
40 hearing of the child, the court shall ensure that the defendant is able to  
41 observe and hear the testimony of the child, but that the child cannot see  
42 or hear the defendant. The defendant shall be able to consult privately  
43 with his attorney at all times during the taking of the testimony. The  
44 attorneys and the judge may question the child. If the court orders the  
45 testimony of a child to be taken under this subsection, the child shall not  
46 be required to testify in court at the proceeding for which the testimony  
47 was taken.

48 (b) In any criminal prosecution of an offense involving female genital  
49 mutilation, assault, sexual assault or abuse of a child twelve years of age  
50 or younger, the court may, upon motion of the attorney for any party,  
51 order that the following procedures be used when the testimony of the  
52 child is taken: (1) Persons shall be prohibited from entering and leaving  
53 the courtroom during the child's testimony; (2) an adult who is known  
54 to the child and with whom the child feels comfortable shall be  
55 permitted to sit in close proximity to the child during the child's  
56 testimony, provided such person shall not obscure the child from the  
57 view of the defendant or the trier of fact; (3) the use of anatomically  
58 correct dolls by the child shall be permitted; and (4) the attorneys for the  
59 defendant and for the state shall question the child while seated at a  
60 table positioned in front of the child, shall remain seated while posing  
61 objections and shall ask questions and pose objections in a manner  
62 which is not intimidating to the child.

63 Sec. 3. Section 54-86h of the general statutes is repealed and the  
64 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

65 No witness shall be automatically adjudged incompetent to testify  
66 because of age and any child who is a victim of female genital  
67 mutilation, assault, sexual assault or abuse shall be competent to testify  
68 without prior qualification. The weight to be given the evidence and the  
69 credibility of the witness shall be for the determination of the trier of  
70 fact.

71 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Any person aggrieved by a  
72 violation of section 1 of this act may bring a civil action in the superior  
73 court for the judicial district where such person resides against the  
74 person or persons who committed such violation to recover  
75 compensatory damages, punitive damages or any other relief deemed  
76 appropriate by the court.

77 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) In all actions pursuant to  
78 section 4 of this act, the immunity between parent and child in such

79 action brought by a child against such child's parent or on behalf of a  
80 child against such child's parent is abrogated.

81 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026, and applicable to all cases filed*  
82 *on or after said date*) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 52-577 of  
83 the general statutes, no action to recover damages for personal injury to  
84 a person under eighteen years of age caused by the performance of  
85 female genital mutilation upon such person may be brought by such  
86 person later than thirty years from the date such person attains the age  
87 of eighteen.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	54-86g
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	54-86h
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026, and applicable to all cases filed on or after said date</i>	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To (1) establish the crime of female genital mutilation, (2) allow for testimony outside of the courtroom for victims twelve years of age or younger, (3) prohibit a witness who is a victim of female genital mutilation from being automatically adjudged incompetent due to age, (4) authorize a civil action by a victim, (5) abrogate immunity between a parent and child if the action is brought by the child against the parent, and (6) allow such actions within thirty years from the victim attaining the age of eighteen years.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*