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something we couldn't accomplish in the Senate. But when it got to the House, Johnene Barr came up" to testify. "... Andrew Raczowski was very instrumental in getting this amendment on."

The victim testified about how

the person who raped her in 1990 had not been found and that there was no hope of a conviction under the existing law. That's because the statute of limitations for cases involving DNA evidence of sexual assault only extended just six years.

(The time begins when a suspect with matching DNA is found.) "Criminals must never be able to slip from the hands of justice on a technicality," said Raczowski, about the case involving Barr. "The wounds don't go away for victims of rape; neither should the possibility of the perpetrator going to prison for the crime."

Rapidly improving technology also will help solve old crimes. "Our laws must adapt to take advantage of advances in forensic science," Raczowski said. "By reforming the statute of limitations, we are empowering law enforcement and, more importantly, giving hope to victims in their desire for closure."

Johnson credited Raczowski for his efforts, which made the bill "for me a superior after leaving the House. I am grateful for his willingness to play a key role on behalf of victims of violent crime."

Chiefs say new law could help with old crimes

By TIM SMITH
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One might call it coincidence, irony or luck.

But on the very day state Lt. Gov. Dick Posthumus signed a law that removes or extends the statute of limitations on serious cases such as rape, an 18-year-old Farmington Hills woman reported to police that she was sexually assaulted in 1991 by her baby-sitter.

The new measure, sponsored by state Sen. Shirley Johnson (R-Royal Oak) and signed Wednesday by Posthumus, will enable police investigators to reopen that criminal sexual conduct case and others like it.

"Obviously, criminals should face responsibility for serious crimes, regardless of how many years have expired," said Farmington Hills police Chief William Dwyer.

Farmington Public Safety

Director Gary Goss, like Dwyer, said Senate Bill 1 is something that could prove to be effective in solving old crimes and perhaps keeping new ones from being committed.

"When you commit an offense, you may get away with it today, this week or even this month," Goss said. "But you never know. ... You could be warm and happy, living a comfortable life, and officers knock on your door 10 years later. You have to think before you commit the act."

Goss added that removing the statute for first-degree CSC is appropriate, "because it's such a violent crime, one that leaves a stigma that lasts a lifetime."

Johnson's bill extends, from six-to-10 years, the statute of limitations for cases such as second-, third-, and fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. The clock on the statute of limitations doesn't begin in cases where DNA is involved until a

match is found.

But the real impact of the law probably won't be known for years, said Goss.

"As far as digging up old cases," Goss said, "if the evidence is there we probably should. But if you don't have a suspect, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense."

Both police chiefs said improvements in DNA technology need to be capitalized on in solving cases.

"DNA is bringing us into a new era in forensic science," Goss said. "It's probably having just as important an impact as fingerprints were (having) back in the 1900s."

The new bill potentially could carry more clout if a DNA data bank for sex offenders is established.

Such a data bank, Dwyer said, "can make prosecution almost certain in cases dating more than several years."

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The students will be accompanied by the president of Shanghai School of Business; Dr. Stuart Arendt, dean of Madonna School of Business and Dr. Betty Jean Hebel, professor of business.

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