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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

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Office

**H.B. 441**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Stewart and A. Mathews

Shalanda R. Plowden, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Specifies when a cause of action for libel or slander begins.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Statute of limitations for libel and slander

Under current law, a prosecution for libel or slander is barred unless it is commenced within one year after either offense was committed.<sup>1</sup> The bill specifies when the cause of action for libel or slander begins, as described below.<sup>2</sup>

The bill provides that a cause of action for libel accrues from the date of publication of the alleged libelous matter, regardless of when the aggrieved person knew of, or discovered, the alleged libelous matter or regardless of when the aggrieved party reasonably should have known of, or discovered, the alleged libelous matter. Each publication of the alleged libelous matter gives rise to a new limitations period.<sup>3</sup>

A cause of action for slander accrues or occurs from the date the alleged slanderous words were spoken, regardless of when the aggrieved person knew of, or discovered, the alleged slanderous words or regardless of when the aggrieved party reasonably should have known of, or discovered, the alleged slanderous words.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 2305.11(A).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 2305.11(B).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 2305.11(B)(2).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 2305.11(B)(3).

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-09-25

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