

whichever period is longer. The committee amendments focus, to the extent possible, on children as victims of crime. Consequently, the offenses included are first, second and third degree sexual assault, sexual assault against a child under the age of 14, kidnapping, which prosecutors say often occurs when a child is sexually assaulted, false imprisonment, child abuse, pandering, debauching a minor, possession, transfer or sale of obscene materials to, or making obscene materials depicting children under the age of 16. The amendment also extends the statute of limitation for inchoate offenses, conspiracy, aiding and abetting attempt and accessory when the inchoate offense directly relate to the primary offense that we mentioned before. Likewise, the committee amendments extend the statute of limitations for compounding one of the felonies listed above, but only if the victim is age 16 or under when the felony was committed. As you know, compounding a felony essentially is an obstruction of justice. Under current law the statute of limitations is 3 years for felonies and 18 months for misdemeanors, except for first, second and third degree sexual assault when the victim is 16 years of age or under, or sexual assault on a child. For those four offenses the statute of limitations, colleagues, is five years. The amendments extend the statute for those offenses listed on which the present statute has not expired. But due to the constitutional prohibition against enactment of ex post facto legislation would not allow renewed prosecution for any offense, if the statute of limitations has already expired. Third and finally, the committee amendments provide for enhanced training and prosecution for crimes against children. This is an idea first brought to the committee by Senator Wesely, and without question meets a need. Without question this part of the amendment must be adopted, if we have any hope in restoring the citizens' confidence that we will never allow their faith and trust in our institutions of government to sink so low. The committee amendments create a division of three well-trained and experienced attorneys within the Attorney General's office to not only assist county attorneys in the prosecution of crimes against children, but also imposes the duty upon the Attorney General to prosecute those crimes, if warranted, under the facts and law when the county attorney will not or cannot prosecute. As I said, the Attorney General, under this amendment, must, and I emphasize must thoroughly investigate cases like Franklin, if brought to their attention, and with that duty we gave him the resources to get the job done. The amendment also requires all county attorneys to receive yearly training related to crimes