

SEXUAL
ASSAULT

Bills would give abuse victims more time to sue

LANSING (AP) — State lawmakers are poised to consider bipartisan bills aimed at helping potentially thousands of sex abuse victims sue for damages, including those molested by a University of Michigan sports physician.

It is the second time since 2018 that the Legislature may overhaul laws in the wake of a major abuse scandal. Similar legislation was enacted following the conviction of Larry Nassar, who sexually abused hundreds of female athletes under the guise of medical treatment, including at Michigan State University.

Under the new measures, victims of the late Dr. Robert Anderson at the University of Michigan and others would get additional time to bring lawsuits that might be barred by a statute of limitations. Government entities could not use the immunity defense if they knew or should have known of an accused's prior sexual misconduct and failed to intervene.

Similar government immunity legislation stalled three years ago — after Michigan State agreed to a \$500 million settlement for Nassar's victims — amid pushback from universities, schools, municipalities, businesses and the Catholic Church over the financial implications of facing an unknown number of suits for old allegations.

"These survivors deserve their day in court," said Rep. Ryan Berman, a Republican from Oakland County's Commerce Township who is sponsoring the immunity bill.

The House Oversight Committee on Thursday will hold the first of likely multiple hearings on the measures. Among those expected to testify are former University

REGION/ST

Thursday, September 30, 2021

I

Shanty shuffle



A crowd of people watch and photograph the Otherside Shanty as it gets moved back into its sp. A months-long Fishtown Preservation Society (FPS) project with Biggs Construction, Kasson C install stronger, taller piers under the structure that faced damage from higher water levels. The use in 1904, has more recently been used as a vacation rental but was damaged by high water lev the FPS' Campaign for Fishtown, which intends to raise \$5.29 million to preserve the fishing villa similar projects for the Village Cheese Shanty and The Morris Shanty, with the Carlson's Fishery

LEGISLATION

Gov. signs bills to finis

