The shooting of a woman by a police officer in downtown Wilmington was described as "unbelievable." Wiseman said her husband was recovering from a gunshot wound to the back.

Shortly before 9 p.m. Monday, officers from the Delaware River & Bay Authority spotted the slaying suspect's black Toyota Camry on the Delaware Memorial Bridge and started following him. Maryland authorities had issued a wanted bulletin.

Wiseman said her husband was hit in the back, and police fired from a distance.

Bowie, Md., "You can be in your own yard and covering from a gunshot wound to the back," Wiseman said. "My husband's back ... the trigger, police said.

The two Wilmington officers who fired in his direction have been placed on administrative leave, Barnes said. He said he did not know how many bullets the officers fired.


---

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner is applauded by lawmakers after signing the Child Victim's Act. The law eliminates a civil statute of limitations in child sex-abuse cases.

---

Gov. Ruth Ann Minner signs S.B. 29, the Child Victim's Act, eliminating the civil statute of limitations in cases of child sexual abuse and opening a two-year 'window' for victims to file belated claims.

By BETH MILLER
The News Journal

DOVER — With several strokes of several pens, Gov. Ruth Ann Minner on Tuesday made Delaware the last state a pedophile would want to be in.

Minner signed S.B. 29, the Child Victim's Act, eliminating the civil statute of limitations in cases of child sexual abuse and opening a two-year "window" during which victims whose cases have been previously barred by Delaware's two-year limit can file suit.

The law is the strongest in the nation, according to New York law professor Marci Hamilton, edging California by doubling that state's one-year window. About 1,000 previously barred cases were revived in California after that law went into effect in 2003.

"Sexual predators who victimize children are going to learn that Delaware will not stand for it," Minner said shortly before signing the bill.

The lead sponsors of the bill were Sen. Karen Peterson, D-Stanton, and Rep. Deborah Hudson, R-Fairthorne, both of whom got a standing ovation from about 40 supporters who attended the signing ceremony in the Tatnall Building.

"This law belongs to the children of Delaware, who as children had no voice. Now, they have a voice." Sen. Karen Peterson, D-Stanton, co-sponsor of S.B. 29

Spectators at Tatnall Hall cheer as Sen. Karen Peterson, D-Stanton, explains what went into the process of getting Senate Bill 29 into law.

"This law belongs to the children of Delaware, who as children had no voice," Peterson said. "Now, they have a voice."

The old law required a victim of sexual abuse to file suit within two years of the injury. So a child abused at age 7 had until age 9 to go to court.

Most supporters on hand Tuesday were from two groups — the lay Catholic group known as Voice of the Faithful, and a grass-roots coalition called the Child Victim's Voice Coalition, formed by friends and family of Matt Conaty of Wilmington, who is a survivor of childhood sexual abuse. Conaty's parents were among those who fought hardest to build support for the legislation, and eventually more than 60 organizations had signed on.

"You transform a victim to a survivor when you are able to use your voice," said Conaty, 38. "Scores of people helped build the coalition. ... It's a testament to teamwork."

Supporters planned to celebrate Mass with the Rev. Richard Reismann, pastor of St. John the Baptist-Holy Angels, and enjoy a catered dinner at the Jesus House on Milltown Road on Tuesday evening.

John Sullivan, one of the founders of the Coastal Delmarva chapter of Voice of the Faithful, hoped many more organizations would sign on.

---


---

Child sex-abuse victims cheer law

Minner inks measure allowing two-year 'window' for past victims to file belated claims

By BETH MILLER
The News Journal
Minner: Sex-abuse law called toughest in U.S.