Session of 2025

SENATE BILL No. 141

By Senator Holscher

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AN ACT concerning civil actions; relating to defamation; enacting the right to speak your truth act; prohibiting defamation claims in certain circumstances.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the right to speak your truth act.

(b) A person who is the subject of a reported accusation of sexual misconduct, sexual abuse, sexual assault or sexual harassment shall not file a defamation action related to the reported accusation unless the evidence establishes that:

(1) The action is based on a claim that it is impossible for the person who is the subject of the accusation to have committed the act giving rise to the reported accusation;

(2) the person making the accusation has been impeached in a court proceeding related to the same facts giving rise to the reported accusation;

(3) the person making the accusation has publicly made contradictory statements involving relevant and material facts related to the reported accusation; or

(4) the person making the accusation has publicly stated that the sexual misconduct, sexual abuse, sexual assault or sexual harassment reported in the accusation did not occur.

(c) The provisions of subsection (b) shall only apply when the accusation of sexual misconduct, sexual abuse, sexual assault or sexual harassment has been reported, including, but not limited to, reports and disclosures made to law enforcement, human resources departments or media outlets or reports made on social media platforms.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.