
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2468

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By House Public Safety (originally sponsored by Representatives Orwall, Kochmar, Appleton, Sells, Takko, Dahlquist, Roberts, Wylie, Goodman, Stonier, Moscoso, Springer, Jinkins, Fitzgibbon, and Carlyle)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to the retention of biological material collected
2 during criminal investigations; creating a new section; and providing
3 an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) A work group on preservation of evidence
6 for criminal justice purposes is established to study and make
7 recommendations relating to establishing statewide standards for
8 preserving biological material in felony cases in Washington state.

9 (2) The work group shall consist of the following members:

10 (a) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate,
11 appointed by the president of the senate;

12 (b) One member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house
13 of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
14 representatives;

15 (c) The chief of the Washington state patrol or the chief's
16 designee;

17 (d) The executive director of the Washington association of
18 sheriffs and police chiefs or the executive director's designee;

19 (e) One member representing the superior court judges' association;

- 1 (f) One member representing the district and municipal court
2 judges' association;
- 3 (g) One member representing the Washington state association of
4 counties;
- 5 (h) One member representing the Washington association of
6 prosecuting attorneys;
- 7 (i) One member representing the Washington defender's association
8 or the Washington association of criminal defense lawyers;
- 9 (j) One member representing the Washington state association of
10 cities;
- 11 (k) One member representing the Washington association of county
12 officials;
- 13 (l) One evidence room technician who is employed by a county or
14 city law enforcement agency;
- 15 (m) Two persons representing victims of crimes and their family
16 members and friends; and
- 17 (n) Two members, appointed by the governor, who represent the
18 community from the innocence network in Washington state.
- 19 (3) Members of the work group shall select a chair.
- 20 (4) At a minimum, the work group shall research, review, and make
21 recommendations on whether to:
- 22 (a) Preserve all items of biological material relating to felony
23 offenses;
- 24 (b) Ensure biological material is not lost, destroyed, or
25 contaminated;
- 26 (c) Determine consistent specified time periods that biological
27 material be retained and secured in connection with a felony criminal
28 investigation;
- 29 (d) Develop a model policy for the collection, tracking, packaging,
30 storing, and disposition of biological material, including the length
31 of time biological material should be retained by a governmental
32 entity; and
- 33 (e) Develop a statewide policy that provides clear direction for
34 the disposal of recovered property from misdemeanor criminal
35 investigations when storage of evidence is an issue for felony criminal
36 investigations.
- 37 (5) The work group shall compile its findings and recommendations

1 for the retention and disposition of biological material into a final
2 report and provide its report to the appropriate committees of the
3 legislature and governor by December 1, 2014.

4 (6) The work group shall function within existing resources and no
5 specific budget may be provided to complete the report. The
6 participants are encouraged to donate their time to offset any costs.

7 (7) This section expires January 1, 2015.

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