

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

Bil Analysis

Bil No. SSB 5578

Relating to the state toxicology.

Brief title

Hearing Date 3/24/99

Senator Patters Horn and Costa.

Sponsor(s)

Staff Scot MacColl

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7106

BACKGROUND:

The State Toxicology was established in conjunction with the University of Washington Medical School and under the authority of the State Forensic Investigative Council. The state toxicologist is appointed by the State Forensic Investigative Council and the council oversees and controls the toxicology.

The lab performs necessary toxicological procedures by all coroners, medical examiners, and prosecuting attorneys. The lab is currently funded by license fees for full service restaurants, full service private clubs, and sports and entertainment facilities.

The crime lab is also under the authority of the State Forensic Investigative Council, however, it is housed within the Washington State Patrol. The crime lab provides laboratory services and scientifically handles physical evidence related to any crime.

The Forensic Investigative Council is actively involved in preparing the budgets for both the crime lab and toxicology, and approves the budgets prior to the formal submission to the Office of Financial Management.

SUMMARY:

All powers, duties, functions, and employees of the State Toxicology are transferred to the Bureau of Forensic Laboratory Services of the Washington State Patrol.

The Bureau of Forensic Laboratory Services created within the Washington State Patrol combines the toxicology crime lab as one bureau and it provides the services of the two labs.

The Forensic Investigative Council will be involved in assisting in preparing the budgets for both labs and must approve the budget prior to formal submission to the Office of Financial Management.

The Forensic Investigation Council will prescribe the qualifications for directors and submit three names to the chief of the Washington State Patrol as director of the Bureau of Forensic Services. The council will further appoint a state toxicologist and establish policies, objectives and priorities for the Bureau of Forensic Investigation Services.

FISCAL NOTE: Not requested.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill takes effect July 1, 1999.