
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5710

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Padden and L. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 01/28/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing contamination in the state toxicology
2 laboratory; and amending RCW 43.43.670.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.43.670 and 1999 c 40 s 6 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) There is created in the Washington state patrol a bureau of
7 forensic laboratory services system which is authorized to:

8 (a) Provide laboratory services for the purpose of analyzing and
9 scientifically handling any physical evidence relating to any crime.

10 (b) Provide training assistance for local law enforcement
11 personnel.

12 (c) Provide all necessary toxicology services requested by all
13 coroners, medical examiners, and prosecuting attorneys.

14 (2) The bureau of forensic laboratory services shall assign
15 priority to a request for services with due regard to whether the
16 case involves criminal activity against persons. The Washington state
17 forensic investigations council shall assist the bureau of forensic
18 laboratory services in devising policies to promote the most
19 efficient use of laboratory services consistent with this section.
20 The forensic investigations council shall be actively involved in the
21 preparation of the bureau of forensic laboratory services budget and

1 shall approve the bureau of forensic laboratory services budget prior
2 to its formal submission by the state patrol to the office of
3 financial management pursuant to RCW 43.88.030.

4 (3) The bureau of forensic laboratory services, in consultation
5 with the Washington state forensic investigations council, must adopt
6 rules by April 1, 2023, for the state toxicology laboratory, as
7 defined in RCW 43.103.020, requiring the laboratory to:

8 (a) Conduct sampling and testing for contamination in the
9 laboratory and its other work areas not less than annually per fiscal
10 year; and

11 (b) Coordinate a periodic environmental sampling by the national
12 institute of standards and technology of the United States department
13 of commerce to include a corrective action report for noted
14 deficiencies.

15 (4) The bureau of forensic laboratory services shall complete an
16 annual report of the environmental sampling findings and provide this
17 report to the Washington state forensic investigations council for
18 review to be shared with the senate law and justice committee and the
19 house public safety committee.

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