

CONSORTIUM OF FORENSIC SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS

FEBRUARY 2015

114th Congress 1st Session

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

CFSO BOARD MEMBERS

Pete Marone, Chair
ASCLD/LAB Representative
pete.marone@gmail.com

Matt Gamette, Vice Chair
ASCLD Representative
matthew.gamette@gmail.com

Kenneth F. Martin, Treasurer,
IAI Representative
kenneth.martin@thecfso.org

Kim Collins, MD, Secretary
NAME Representative
kimcollinsmd@gmail.com

Victor Weedn, MD, JD,
AAFS Representative
vweedn@gwu.edu

Timothy P. Rohrig, PhD
SOFT/ABFT Representative
timothy.rohrig@sedgwick.gov

Yale Caplan,
ABFT
fortox@aol.com

Beth Lavach,
Legislative Liaison
bethlavach@elsandassociates.com



It's a new year and a new Congress in Washington. There has been a whirlwind of activity in the month of January. The budget has been delivered, Committees in Congress have been assigned, a few Bills have been introduced, the Commission has had their first meeting of the year and the OSACs are moving along. We have compiled for you a brief overview of all of the current activities so this newsletter is lengthy. We have also started a new project of tracking State legislation for you. Let us know if we miss something and we can add it to our database for you.

Budget

Forensic Science Improvement. — Continuing improvement is needed in the forensic sciences, which are crucial to ensuring the accuracy of evidence presented in criminal justice trials. The 2016 Budget proposes \$6,000,000 for this program. Of this amount, \$3,000,000 will be transferred by NIJ to NIST for measurement science and standards in support of forensic science and the National Institute of Standards and Technology to support Scientific Area Committees)

Coverdell.—No funding

DNA Initiative.—The DNA Initiative is a comprehensive strategy to maximize the use of forensic DNA technology in the criminal justice system. The program provides capacity building grants, training, and technical assistance to state and local governments, and supports innovative research on DNA analysis and use of forensic evidence. The 2016 Budget proposes \$105,000,000 for this program, including \$20,000,000 to address backlogs of rape kit-related DNA evidence.

National Incident Criminal Background Check System - \$ 5,000,000

Byrne JAG - \$388,000,00

Legislation

Left over from the 113th Congress's appropriations process the Homeland Security Appropriations bill (H.R. 240: Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2015) for FY15 includes the following reference to forensic science:

\$2,366,000 shall be for forensic and related support of investigations of missing and exploited children; of which \$6,000,000 shall be for a grant for activities related to investigations of missing and exploited children and shall remain available until September 30, 2016; and of which not less than \$12,000,000 shall be for activities related to training in electronic crimes investigations and forensics.

The New 114th Congress has introduced three bills so far:

1) [HR 296](#) and [S 178](#), Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015. These bills include the following reference to forensic science:

The establishment or enhancement of other necessary victim assistance programs or personnel, such as victim or child advocates, child-protective services, child forensic interviews, or other necessary service providers

2) [HR 320](#), Rapid DNA Act of 2015. This bill was introduced in the House on January 13, 2015 and there is not yet a companion bill in the Senate. It is being discussed in the Senate at this time and the FBI is preparing comments to this bill. Below is a description of the Act as introduced from the Congressional Research Service and here is the actual text (hyperlink). The CFSO is gathering comments from its Member Organizations as we speak and working with the House and Senate to make changes as our Members see fit.

“Rapid DNA Act of 2015

Amends the DNA Identification Act of 1994 to make changes regarding quality assurance and proficiency testing standards for DNA analysis in combatting crime, including requiring:

the advisory board on DNA quality assurance methods appointed by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to include members from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and to develop separate standards for testing the proficiency of qualified agencies; the standards to specify criteria for quality assurance and proficiency tests to be applied to the various types of DNA analyses used by qualified agencies conducting analyses of DNA samples using sample-to-answer DNA analysis systems; and for qualified agencies that the quality assurance guidelines recommended by the scientific working group on DNA analysis methods be deemed the standards of the Director of the FBI until such time as the advisory board has made its recommendations to the Director and the Director has acted upon those recommendations.

Sets forth requirements regarding a proficiency testing program, including requiring the Director of the National Institute of Justice to certify to the House and Senate Judiciary Committees that:

The Institute has entered into a contract with, or made a grant to, an appropriate entity for establishing by two years after September 13, 1994, a blind external proficiency testing program for DNA analyses which shall be available to qualified agencies conducting analyses of DNA samples using sample-to-answer DNA analysis systems; and such a program is readily available for such agencies or is not feasible to have such testing for such agencies conducting such analyses.

Defines:

(1) "sample-to-answer DNA analysis systems" to mean fully automated systems that after input of a DNA sample can perform all necessary sample preparation and analysis with no operator intervention;

(2) "qualified agencies" to mean booking stations, jails, prisons, detention centers, other law enforcement organizations, and facilities outside of forensic laboratories that can perform DNA analysis using sample-to-answer DNA systems on subjects meeting current legislative guidelines; and

(3) "blind external proficiency test" to mean, for qualified agencies, a test that is presented to such agencies through a second agency and appears to the operator to involve routine DNA samples for sample-to-answer DNA analysis systems.

Provides that the Index to facilitate law enforcement exchange of DNA identification information shall include only information on DNA identification records and DNA analyses that are prepared by laboratories or qualified agencies that, among other things, are a qualifying agency engaged in the intake, processing, booking, detention, or incarceration of individuals charged or convicted of qualifying offenses and the analysis of DNA samples is conducted on a sample-to-answer DNA analysis system.”

114th Congress 2015

House Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee

MAJORITY-REPUBLICAN	MINORITY-DEMOCRAT
Chairman John Culberson (R-7 th -TX) Chairman	Chaka Fattah (D-2 nd -PA) Ranking
Robert Aderholt (R-4 th -AL)	Mike Honda (D-17 th -CA)
John Carter (R-31 st -TX)	Jose Serrano (D-15 th -NY)
Jaime Herrar Beutler (R-3 rd -WA)	Derek Kilmer (D-6 th -WA)
Martha Roby (R-2 nd -AL)	
David Jolly (R-13 th -FL)	
Evan Jenkins (R-3 rd -WV)	

Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

MAJORITY-REPUBLICAN	MINORITY-DEMOCRAT
Richard Shelby-(R-AL) Chairman	Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) Ranking
Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn)	Patrick Leahy (D-VT)
Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)	Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
Susan Collins (R-Maine)	Jack Reed (D-RI)
Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Mark Kirk (R-IL)	Chris Coons (D-Del.)
John Boozman (R-AK)	Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	Chris Murphy (D-CT)
James Lankford (R-OK)	

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE 2015/2016

MAJORITY (REPUBLICAN)	MINORITY (REPUBLICAN)
Chuck Grassley, Chairman (IA)-	Patrick Leahy, Chair (VT)
Orrin Hatch (UT)	Dianne Feinstein (CA)
Jeff Sessions (AL)	Chuck Schumer (NY)
Lindsey Graham (SC)-(Crime Subcommittee Chair) <i>David</i>	Dick Durbin (IL)
John Cornyn (TX)	Sheldon Whitehouse (RI)(Subcommittee Ranking)
Michael S. Lee (UT)	Amy Klobuchar (MN)
Ted Cruz (TX)	Al Franken (MN)
Jeff Flake (AZ)	Christopher Coons (DE)
David Vitter (LA)	Richard Blumenthal (CT)
David Perdue (GA)	
Thom Tillis (NC)	

HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE 2015/2016

MAJORITY (REPUBLICAN)	MINORITY (DEMOCRAT)
Bob Goodlatte, Chair (VA 6 th)	John Conyers, Ranking (MI 13 th)
Jim Sensenbrenner, (WI 5 th)	Jerry Nadler (NY 10 th)
Lamar Smith (TX 21 st)	Zoe Lofgren (CA 19 th)
Steve Chabot (OH 1 st)	Sheila Jackson Lee (TX 18 th) Sub Ranking
Darrell Issa (CA 49 th)-	Steve Cohen (TN 9 th)
Randy Forbes (VA 4 th)-	Hank Johnson (GA 4 th)
Steve King (Iowa 4 th)	Pedro Pierlusisi (PR – at large)
Trent Franks (AZ 8 th)	Judy Chu (CA 27 th)
Louie Gohmert (TX 1 st)	Ted Deutch (FL 21 st)
Jim Jordan (OH 4 th)	Luis Guterrez (IL 4 th)
Ted Poe (TX 2 nd)	Karen Bass (CA 37 th)
Jason Chaffetz (UT 3 rd)	Cedric Richmond (LA 2 nd)
Tom Marino (PA 10 th)	Suzan DelBene (WA 1 st)
Trey Gowdy (SC 4 th)	Hakeem Jeffries (NY 8 th)
Raul Labrador (ID 1 st)	David Cicilline (RI 1 st)
Blake Farenthold (TX 27 th)	Scott Peters (CA 52 nd)
Doug Collins (GA 9 th)	
Ron DeSantis (FL 6 th)	
Mimi Walters (CA 45 th)	
Ken Buck (CO 4 th)	
John Ratcliffe (TX 4 th)	
David Trott (MI 11 th)	
Mike Bishop (MI 8 th)	

*yellow on the Crime subcommittee

NOTE: House staff email is firstname.lastname@mail.house.gov

Senate staff email is firstname_lastname@memberastame.gov

NIST BUDGET LANGUAGE

BUDGET SUB PROGRAM: Standards Coordination and Special Programs NIST-p182 - 186

BASE JUSTIFICATION:

Standards Coordination and Special Programs Overview

Standards Coordination and Special Programs houses two cross NIST activities managed by the Associate Director for Laboratory Programs that deal with coordinated high-profile R&D programs, documentary standards coordination and policy development.

1. Office of Special Programs (OSP)

The OSP serves as the project and program management office for the Associate Director for Laboratory Programs, enhancing management oversight, planning, and resource coordination for high-profile programs that critically depend on the expertise and capabilities of two or more NIST laboratories.

The OSP currently consists of the following four programs:

- **Forensic Sciences:** In cooperation with the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Science Foundation, develops performance standards, measurement tools, operating procedures and equipment guidelines that help criminal justice agencies make informed procurement, deployment, applications, operating, and training decisions. Provides unique expertise on performance standards for critical technologies in forensic science such as firearms and toolmark analysis, pattern and impression analysis including latent friction ridge analysis, footprint, tread and tire analysis, trace evidence including paint and coatings, fiber, hair, glass, metals and plastics analysis, geological evidence analysis, questioned document analysis, crime scene analysis, fire scene and fire debris analysis, explosives analysis, controlled substance and toxicology analysis, computer forensics, multi-media, digital and image analysis, voice spectral analysis, serology and DNA analysis, and medicolegal and death investigation. Works with law enforcement, universities, professional and scientific organizations, and other government agencies, to solve difficult technical forensic science standards challenges.

*Energy Research Program

*Greenhouse Gas Measurements and Climate Research Program

*National Security Standards Program

Examples of Accomplishments

- **Forensic Sciences:** Designed a national framework for the development, approval and adoption of standards to support the Forensic Sciences in the U.S. This key standards infrastructure was designed to provide a national uniform organized framework to address technology and standards development needs for the highly diverse and fragmented universe of forensic science disciplines. Working with stakeholders from Federal, state and local government criminal justice and forensic science practitioners, academic researchers, measurement science and statistics subject matter experts, the organizational infrastructure was established to develop standards for the methods and protocols used in crime laboratories across the U.S., to ensure scientific rigor and to conduct research to validate new and existing methods, and develop standards for forensic science terminology, report wording and expert testimony.
- **Forensic Sciences:** Created a standard reference material that has globally standardized forensic firearms examinations and propelled the next generation of ballistic imaging software and instrumentation. The standard bullet was pivotal in the creation of algorithms for data collection and is the basis of uniform image capture for the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network, a national system utilized to associate firearms used in crimes to evidentiary fired bullets and casings.

Priority Objectives for FY 2016

- Forensic Sciences: 1) Establish the administration of the Organization of Scientific Area Committees and be responsible for managing five Scientific Area Committees, a Forensic Science Standards Board, Quality Infrastructure Committee, Legal Resource Committee, Human Factors Committee and subcommittees to promulgate national standards, guidelines, and best practices throughout the forensic science community. In collaboration with the Department of Justice, prepare a report of the National Commission on Forensic Science and provide recommendations to the Attorney General. 2) Establish a Forensic Science Center of Excellence to rapidly build expertise in areas where measurement science gaps exist.

The Standards Coordination Office carries out the following programmatic functions:

- Standards Policy Coordination: Formulates and implements NIST policy regarding standards and conformity assessment, including product testing, certification practices, and laboratory accreditation to promote U.S. technology and support international competitiveness; cooperates with domestic organizations in the private sector, state and local governments, Federal agencies, and with domestic foreign, and international organizations in matters related to standardization and conformity assessment; carries out standards policy and information functions established by Congress or as otherwise directed; recommends Federal policies regarding the development, approval, and use of voluntary standards, and the development and implementation of conformity assessment policy; chairs the Interagency Committee on Standards Policy (ICSP) which coordinates actions by which Federal agencies implement standards-related policies; coordinates domestic and international standards-related activities; monitors the global standards and conformity assessment landscape and represents NIST at relevant domestic and international fora; administers and reports on the quality the SIM Quality System Task Force.
- Standards Guidance: Provides standards and conformity assessment related technical support to other U.S. government agencies to assist with both technical and policy issues. Provides early warning about emerging standards and conformity assessment related issues that can help NIST managers make decisions about preparing for and addressing these issues. Assists NIST staff in bridging the technical, standards and trade policy aspects in issues with the potential to impact U.S. competitiveness and ability to innovate. Provides unique standards and conformity assessment policy expertise relating to key trading partners. Assists U.S. government agencies and private sector organizations with the implementation of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) such as the APEC Tel, CITELE, and U.S.- EU MRAs.
- Standards and Information Dissemination and Outreach: Operates the World Trade Organization, Technical Barriers to Trade related Inquiry Point and Notification Authority and Standards Information Center providing unique standards, conformity assessment and technical regulations related information to NIST staff, U.S. government employees, U.S. exporters, and foreign trading partners. Provides standards and conformity assessment related outreach and training to stakeholders, and manages standards education efforts for NIST including the Standard Services curriculum development grant program. Analyzes impact and effectiveness of NIST participation in standards and conformity assessment related activities.
- Laboratory Accreditation: Operates the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) for the U.S.; provides accreditation to testing and calibration laboratories based on evaluation of their technical qualifications and competence to perform certain types of tests in specified fields using internationally accepted guides and standards; designs and implements procedures for accrediting laboratories for their capability to provide calibrations traceable to national standards and for ability to conduct such important tests as those for asbestos fibers and electromagnetic telecommunications; provides evaluation and recognition of testing performance, especially in response to Congressional mandates and requirements of other Federal agencies, to domestic and foreign laboratories, state and local governments and commercial interests.

Next Steps:

In early FY2015 NIST will award two new Centers of Excellence in Community Resilience and Forensic Science. NIST will leverage these COEs to build technical capabilities in areas of national need at a scale and pace not available through traditional means.

NIST is part of an administration-wide Cross-Agency Priority Goal on technology transfer. For updates and plans on that goal, see www.performance.gov

OSAC Update

The CFSO is pleased to have Members from most of our organizations represented on the OSAC structure. Below please find a brief update from the Chair of the FSSB .

The Organization of Scientific Area Committees has gotten off to a strong start and has begun work to publish a Registry of Standards and Guidelines for the forensic science community. The full roster of 24 subcommittees, 5 Scientific Area Committees, 3 Resource committees, and the Forensic Science Standards Board was completed last fall. Very quickly, the Quality Infrastructure Committee began work on cataloging the more than 700 existing standards, guidelines, and documents that touch the work of the forensic community in order to set a framework from which to begin.

In January, each of the 24 subcommittees met for 3 days over the course of 2 weeks in Norman, Oklahoma to begin their work. Among action items for the meeting were identifying existing documents that may be ready for putting through the process as well as creating priority action reports of critical issues to each discipline for further study. Public meetings of all 5 SACs will be held at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences meeting in Orlando, Florida during February.

The final composition of OSAC is populated by approximately 70% forensic science practitioners on the subcommittee level and approximately 60% forensic science practitioners overall. The Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations is well represented, with a designated organization representative of ASCLD, SOFT, NAME, and AAFS on the Forensic Science Standards Board and 5 designated organization members from ASCLD on the Quality Infrastructure Committee.

Stay tuned for future updates on the work of OSAC and thank you to the OSAC representatives from the CFSO organizations for all your hard work to date.

Jeremy Triplett

ASCLD & FSSB Chair

COMMISSION UPDATE

The Commission met on January 29th and 30th. U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff resigned his position as Co-Chair of the Report and Testimony Subcommittee and the Commission on Wednesday, January 28th when the DOJ ruled the Discovery Document written by the subcommittee was considered out of the scope of the Commission Charter. On Friday, Judge Rakoff returned to the Commission after DOJ reversed its decision. DAG Sally Yates addressed the Commission alongside Judge Rakoff and discussed DOJ's decision to reverse the decision after hearing the Judge's concerns. DOJ agreed to allow the commission to review the Discovery Document which gives criminal defendants more information about forensic evidence before the case goes to trial.

Other documents discussed at the Commission included:

Final Draft Policy Recommendation on Universal Accreditation

Final Draft Policy Recommendation on Accreditation of Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices

Final Draft Recommendation on Certification of Medicolegal Death Investigators

Final Views Document related to Scientific Literature in Support of Forensic Science and Practice

These documents are available at www.justice.gov/ncfs

Three of these documents were voted on and approved unanimously by the Commission:

Certification of Medicolegal Death Investigators

Accreditation of Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices

Scientific Literature in Support of Forensic Science and Practice

The Universal Accreditation document was voted on but not passed because of amendments regarding admissibility issues.

State Legislation

California

AB84 Forensic Testing; DNA samples January 26 2015 <https://legiscan.com/CA/bill/AB84/2013>

An act to amend, repeal, and add Sections 19050.2 and 19050.8 of the Government Code, to amend, repeal, and add Sections 1233.1, 1233.3, 1233.4, 2910, 11191, and 13602 of, to add Section 1233.9 to, and to add and repeal Sections 2915 and 6250.2 of, the Penal Code, and to amend Section 15 of Chapter 42 of the Statutes of 2012, relating to corrections, and making an appropriation therefore, to take effect immediately, bill related to the budget.

- Allow for DNA to be collected from individuals arrested and charged with serious felonies upon court process and a finding of probable cause.
- The DNA sample would be required to be completely expunged if the case is dismissed or the accused is acquitted or otherwise exonerated.
- Also expands upon a pre-existing testing program that allows a person who is arrested for a non-violent minor crime, such as shoplifting, to have their charges dropped in exchange for paying a small fine and agreeing to a DNA swab to check against prior violent crimes and to keep on hand for the future.

Hawaii

SB1068 Forensic Identification: introduced Jan 28, 2015, in Senate Judiciary and Labor Committee
<https://legiscan.com/gaits/search?state=HI&bill=SB1068>

Clarifies the grading of the offense of refusal or failure to provide specimen for forensic identification by making an intentional or knowing violation a class C felony.

SB275 Attorney General; Sexual Assault Response System; Sexual Assault Response Team; Forensic Medical Examination; Sexual Assault Evidence Collection and Analysis; Appropriation: January 26, 2015 Referred to Senate Health Committee <https://legiscan.com/HI/bill/SB275/2015>

Establishes the statewide sexual assault response system, sexual assault response teams in each county, and sexual assault victim examination protocols, including time frames pertaining to the collection, submittal, and analysis of forensic medical evidence. Makes appropriations.

SB211 Crime Forensic Identification; DNA Testing; Felons: January 23, 2015 Hearing scheduled in February
<https://legiscan.com/HI/bill/SB211/2015>

Specifies the requirements of DNA sample collection from subject criminal offenders that are released on parole,

probation, or other release. Makes it a class C felony to intentionally or knowingly fail to provide DNA samples, and a misdemeanor for negligent or reckless failure to comply.

SB152 Crime; Forensic Identification; DNA Analysis; Retention of Biological Evidence: January 22, 2015, February hearing scheduled

Specifies the criminal offenses for which biological evidence must be retained for a certain period following a conviction and the standards for uses of retained evidence. Establishes a process for the disposal of biological evidence earlier than the prescribed period for retention.

HB947: Relating to Records of Forensic Examinations: January 26, 2015 Referred to House Health Committee <https://legiscan.com/gaits/search?state=HI&bill=HB947>

Creates consistency between statutes pertaining to Unfit to Proceed and Acquit and Commit regarding the Hawaii State Hospital receiving copies of court examinations upon commitment to the hospital.

HB136: Crime; Forensic Identification; DNA Testing; Felons: January 26, 2015, Referred to House Public Safety Committee <https://legiscan.com/HI/bill/HB136/2015>

Specifies the requirements of DNA sample collection from subject criminal offenders that are released on parole, probation, or other release. Makes it a class C felony to intentionally or knowingly fail to provide DNA samples, and a misdemeanor for negligent or reckless failure to comply.

Kentucky

SJR20 Direct the Auditor of Public Accounts to study the number of sexual assault examination kits in the possession of Kentucky law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies that have not been sent to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory: January 6 2015 introduced in Senate <https://legiscan.com/KY/bill/SJR20/2015>

Direct the Auditor of Public Accounts to study the number of sexual assault examination kits in the possession of Kentucky law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies that have not been sent to the Department of Kentucky State Police forensic laboratory for testing; require a report to the Legislative Research Commission by November 1, 2015.

Mississippi

SB2484 Medical examiner; require appointment in southern region: Jan 19, 2015 Introduced <https://legiscan.com/gaits/search?state=MS&bill=SB2484>

An Act To Amend Section 41-61-65, Mississippi Code Of 1972, To Require A Forensic Pathologist To Be Designated By The State Medical Examiner For A Certain Portion Of The State; And For Related Purposes.

SB2159 Crime Lab; rename "Mississippi Forensic Laboratory": Introduced <https://legiscan.com/MS/bill/SB2159/2015>

HB278 DNA require from persons arrested for felonies: Introduced January 12, 2015 , referred to Judiciary B and Appropriations <https://legiscan.com/MS/bill/HB278/2015>

An Act To Provide For Dna Testing Genetic Marker Analysis; To Define Certain Terms; To Establish A State Dna Database For The Storage Of DNA Samples And Evidence; To Provide A Fee For Testing; To Require That DNA Samples Shall Be Obtained After A Felony Arrest; To Provide For The Purging Of The Database In Certain Circumstances; To Provide Penalties For Violations Of This Act; To Provide For The Authorized Use Of DNADna Evidence; To Provide For Standardized Forms To Use As Required By This Act; To Require Boards Of Supervisors To Establish Forensic Laboratories; To Provide Authorized Uses Of Genetic Marker Analysis; To Bring Forward Sections 45-1-25, 45-1-27, 47-5-183 And 99-49-1, Mississippi Code Of 1972, For Purposes Of Amendment; And For Related Purposes.

Montana

HB23 Appropriate money for a forensic community corrections facility, Introduced November 24, 2014, referred to appropriations <https://legiscan.com/MT/bill/HB23/2015>

New York

S02151 Establishes the minimum period of time that forensic samples should be retained by investigating authorities; creates the state commission for the integrity of the criminal justice system, as an independent agency, and provides for such commissions power; January 21, 2015 Referred to Finance <https://legiscan.com/NY/bill/S02151/2015>

Establishes the minimum period of time that forensic samples should be retained by investigating authorities; creates the state commission for the integrity of the criminal justice system, as an independent agency, and provides for such commission's powers and duties; relates to special fictitious name indictments; relates to requests for certain DNA test comparisons; relates to forensic DNA testing; relates to claims for unjust conviction and imprisonment; relates to DNA testing, data collection and record keeping; and relates to DNA testing in felony cases.

S02170 Requires county medical examiners or coroners to give the state police forensic laboratory DNA samples of unidentified dead or alive and missing persons upon request for the purpose of classification and for the state police to forward the samples; January 21, 2015 Referred to Finance <https://legiscan.com/NY/bill/S02170/2015>

Requires county medical examiners or coroners to give the state police forensic laboratory DNA samples of unidentified dead or alive and missing persons upon request for the purpose of classification and for the state police to forward the samples to the state division of criminal justice services for the purpose of comparison to attempt to determine identity and for the purpose of filing; also provides for the forwarding of records to the National Crime Information Center upon such center adopting a policy to accept such records.

S01455 Relates to establishing the state of sexual offense forensic evidence index and the processing of evidence related to sexual offenses January 12 2015 referred to finance <https://legiscan.com/NY/bill/S01455/2015>

A02779 Establishes the minimum period of time that forensic samples of blood, tissue and other biological material, should be retained by investigating authorities and the time or specified event or events, if any, after which such samples may be destroyed. January 20, 2015 referred to codes <https://legiscan.com/NY/bill/A02779/2015>

A02926 Authorizes DNA testing in certain additional circumstances January 20, 2015, referred to codes <https://legiscan.com/NY/bill/A02926/2015>

A01853 Requires county medical examiners or coroners to give the state police forensic laboratory DNA samples of unidentified dead or alive in missing persons upon request for the purpose of classification and for the state police to forward the samples to January 13, 2015 referred to governmental operations <https://legiscan.com/NY/bill/A01853/2015>

Requires county medical examiners or coroners to give the state police forensic laboratory DNA samples of unidentified dead or alive and missing persons upon request for the purpose of classification and for the state

police to forward the samples to the state division of criminal justice services for the purpose of comparison to attempt to determine identity and for the purpose of filing; also provides for the forwarding of records to the National Crime Information Center upon such center adopting a policy to accept such records.

A00776 Establishes the sexual assault forensic examiner grant program to award grants to provide statewide access to services provided by sexual assault forensic examiners to victims of sexual assault; January 7, 2015 referred to governmental operations <https://legiscan.com/NY/bill/A00776/2015>

Virginia

SB936 Unclaimed firearms; donation to Department of Forensic Science: passed January 27, 2015
<https://legiscan.com/gaits/search?state=VA&bill=SB936>

Unclaimed firearms; donation to Department of Forensic Science. Permits localities, the Capitol Police, and the State Police to donate unclaimed firearms to the Department of Forensic Science.

HB1578 DNA data bank; State Police to verify receipt of samples from persons on the Sex Offender Registry: January 13, 2015 Reported Yea (11-0) out of Subcommittee January 28, 2015 <https://legiscan.com/VA/bill/HB1578/2015>

DNA data bank; State Police to verify receipt of samples from persons on the Sex Offender Registry. Requires the Department of State Police to verify receipt of DNA samples by the Department of Forensic Science for persons required to register on the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry. The bill also requires the State Police to obtain a DNA sample for such persons if one has not been received by the Department of Forensic Science.

Washington

SB5066 Concerning the collection of blood samples for forensic testing. January 20, 2015 Public hearing
<https://legiscan.com/WA/bill/SB5066/2015>