



CONSORTIUM OF FORENSIC SCIENCE ORGANIZATIONS (CFSO)

FLASH BRIEF

MARCH 2015

The mission of the CFSO is to speak with a single forensic science voice in matters of mutual interest to its member organizations, to influence public policy at the national level and to make a compelling case for greater federal funding for public crime laboratories and medical examiner offices. The primary focus of the CFSO is local, state and national policymakers, as well as the United States Congress.

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IMPORTANT NEWS

On February 24, 2015 the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO) elected new leadership for the organization. The CFSO Board of Directors voted Mr. Matthew Gamette M.S. (American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors) as Chair, Dr. Kim A. Collins (National Association of Medical Examiners) as Vice-Chair, Mr. Ken Martin (International Association for Identification) as Treasurer, and Dr. Marie Marino (International Association of Forensic Nurses) as Secretary.

The membership of the Consortium of Forensic Science Organizations (CFSO) includes the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS), the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT), the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), the International Association of Forensic Nurses (IAFN), the International Association for Identification (IAI), the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME), and the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT). The CFSO is a premiere organization representing over 15,000 forensic science practitioners from these organizations.

The CFSO also recently accepted the resignation of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/ Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) as a member organization. ASCLD/LAB made many important contributions to the CFSO over their years of membership. The resignation of ASCLD/LAB necessitated the resignation of ASCLD/LAB representative Mr. Pete Marone as the CFSO Chair. Mr. Marone has been a leader in the forensic community for many years and his contributions to the CFSO and forensic science advancement are significant. We thank Pete for his service to the CFSO.

CFSO will continue to actively engage in the advancement of forensic science policy, legislation, and leadership. Additional information about the CFSO and the CFSO leadership is available on the website www.thecfso.com.

GENERAL COMMENTS

March has blown in like a lion in regards to both the weather and with Congress. Washington D.C. has seen two impactful snow storms. Funding for the Department of Homeland Security didn't just come down to the wire, but it went over it. The Prime Minister of Israel addressed Congress. His speech angered some, and made others feel even stronger about their position on a nuclear deal with Iran.

Forensics was a bit less controversial, but certainly there has been movement and activity. Last month, CFSO reported on the Federal budget. Despite a request from CFSO to the Attorney General http://www.thecfso.org/advocacy/AG_letter_RE_Coverdell_20141117.pdf the Department of Justice did not put Coverdell in their 2016 budget request. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has a new Director, the National Commission on Forensic Science met again in January, and the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC) Scientific Area Committees (SAC) met during the American Academy of Forensic Science meeting in February.

GRANT UPDATE

➤ **COVERDELL-A Call to Action AGAIN!**

As we stated earlier, the Department of Justice **DID NOT** fund the Coverdell grants in the FY16 budget. The CFSO has sent a letter to the key Members of Congress http://www.thecfso.org/advocacy/CoverdellAppropriationsRequestFinal_20150310.pdf requesting they fund Coverdell in the FY16 budget. Currently, the Congress is deliberating over the proposed budget for FY16 submitted by the federal government and are in the process of determining how to change the proposed budget. Now is the time to contact your Member of Congress and let him or her know how important this funding is to your organization. Each body of Congress will complete their individual actions on this budget between May and June. There is a limited amount of time for us to have influence and make a difference.

Important: How you can help!

On our website <http://www.thecfso.org/> you will find the Coverdell advocacy package along with directions on how to contact your members of Congress. We are in discussions with the key Members of Congress to include funding for FY16 and they need to hear from the "backbone" of the forensic community regarding why Coverdell funding is so critical in their district and to what effect this will have if it is not funded. Please send a copy of your letter to your Association in order to keep the CFSO in the loop. We will share those individual letters with the key members of Congress. Also, let your association know if you have made any calls to Congress. The quantity of letters and calls to Congress is critical. They want to and need to hear from you.

Coverdell in Previous Years.

Year	Amount
2016	Proposed \$0
2015	\$12 Million
2014	\$12 Million
2013	\$11 Million
2012	\$10 Million

➤ **BYRNE JAG Grant Funding**

Great news! We know the Bryne Jag funding is critical to the work you do. To that end, the CFSO signed a joint letter with National Criminal Justice Association to continue to urge Congress to fund this grant. We will keep you updated as we move forward so that you know the final outcome of the FY16 Byrne JAG funding.

➤ **DNA Grant Funding**

The President’s budget for FY16 proposes less funding for DNA than was granted in FY15. The FY16 grant proposal is currently at \$105m (including \$20m for backlogs). The CFSO leadership met with key staff on the Hill to express concern with the decrease in funding for DNA in this years budget. Just to compare, below is a chart regarding DNA funding in previous years:

Year	Amount
2016	Proposed \$105 Million
2015	\$125 million plus \$41 million for Sexual Assault Backlog
2014	\$91 Million
2013	\$113 Million
2012	\$124 Million
2011	\$131 Million
2010	\$151 Million

NEW NIJ DIRECTOR

The Director of the National Institute of Justice was recently sworn in and below is the “About” language on the NIJ website. We hope to meet with this Director in the near term and discuss the issues of importance to our Members.

The Director is appointed by the President to lead the National Institute of Justice and establish the agency's objectives, guided by the needs of the field and the priorities of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Nancy Rodriguez was sworn in as the Director of NIJ on February 9, 2015. Dr. Rodriguez's research expertise covers a wide range of criminal justice issues from the collateral consequences of imprisonment; the intersection of race, ethnicity, crime, and justice; to evaluations of drug courts and restorative justice programs. Her most recent work includes a longitudinal study of families affected by maternal and paternal incarceration.

Click here to learn more: <http://www.nij.gov/about/director/Pages/welcome.aspx>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

<p>H.R. 320 <i>Rapid DNA Act of 2015</i></p>	<p>Sponsor Sensenbrenner (R) Wisconsin Co-Sponsor Swalwell (D) California</p>	<p>To establish a system for integration of Rapid DNA instruments for use by law enforcement to reduce violent crime and reduce the current DNA analysis backlog.</p>
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There has been no movement on this legislation, but the CFSO did issue a position statement [http://www.thecfso.org/advocacy/CFSO Position Paper on HR 320 Final.pdf](http://www.thecfso.org/advocacy/CFSO_Position_Paper_on_HR_320_Final.pdf). The CFSO will continue to work with Congress to modify this legislation.

MEMBERS CORNER

This month we are beginning a new section to our newsletter. Each of our Member Organizations will provide a “what’s happening with them” to include the dates for their meetings and a link to their websites. Please see the following in from each organization in alphabetical order:

American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS)



The AAFS (<http://www.aafs.org/>) has over 7,000 members and its objectives, as stated in our Bylaws, are to promote professionalism, integrity, and competency in the membership actions and associated activities; to promote education for and research in the forensic sciences; to encourage the study, improve the practice, elevate the standards and advance the cause of the forensic sciences; to promote interdisciplinary communications; and to plan, organize and administer meetings, reports and other projects for the stimulation and advancement of these and related purposes.

We held our February Annual Meeting in Orlando Florida. We had over 4,000 participants and representatives from 62 countries. There were 597 oral presentations, 320 posters, and 24 workshops. Dr. Tom Noguchi was awarded the Gradwohl Laureate Award and Dr. Marilyn Huestis received the Distinguished Fellow award.

Our next Annual Meeting will be Feb 22-27, 2016 in Las Vegas and the theme will be *Transformation: Embracing Change*. This theme acknowledges the plethora of current policymaking activities, including the NCFS, NIST OSAC, and legislative efforts—which are central to CFSo concerns. The CFSo will typically present during our Annual meeting. The Academy supports the standards-setting efforts of the NIST OSAC and the legislative efforts to institutionalize the OSAC through statutory mandate. We also support the movement toward universal accreditation of forensic laboratories and certification of forensic scientists. Finally, we support grant programs aimed at capacity building, education, and research.

The Academy is launching a Humanitarian and Human Rights initiative to receive requests from various countries and organizations for resourcing by the Academy. The Academy is aggressively exploring the possibility of becoming a Standards Development Organization to support the OSAC. The Academy is also attempting to develop an archive of software that manufacturers no longer support to provide a valid resource to forensic scientists requiring this information.

[American Board of Forensic Toxicology/Society of Forensic Toxicologists](#)



ABFT:

The need to identify qualified forensic scientists who can provide essential professional services for the nation's judicial and executive branches of government has long been recognized. In response to the professional need, the American Board of Forensic Toxicology was organized in 1975 to provide, in the interest of the public and the advancement of the sciences, a certification program in forensic toxicology. In purpose, function, and organization, the ABFT is analogous to the certifying board in the various medical specialties and scientific fields.

On February 18, 2014, the American Board of Forensic Toxicology (ABFT) and the Forensic Toxicologist Certification Board (FTCB) merged into a single organization. The name of the American Board of Forensic Toxicology will be retained. All Certificants of the FTCB are now certified by the ABFT.

SOFT:

The Society of Forensic Toxicologists, Inc. is an organization composed of practicing forensic toxicologists and those interested in the discipline for the purpose of promoting and developing forensic toxicology.

[American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors \(ASCLD\)](#)



The American Society of Crime Lab Directors mission is to, *"To promote the effectiveness of crime laboratory leaders throughout the world by facilitating communication among members, sharing critical information, providing relevant training, promoting crime laboratory accreditation, and encouraging scientific and managerial excellence in the global forensic community."* In pursuit of this mission, ASCLD has been very active this past year in several initiatives.

To highlight just a few, ASCLD has co-administered the United States Technical Advisory Group to the ISO Project Committee 272 in the development of standards for the manufacture of DNA consumables used in forensic DNA analysis. Additionally, ASCLD will be hosting the ISO PC 272 Committee meeting in advance of the annual ASCLD symposium in April in Washington, DC. The work product of this committee will be a set of standards used by manufacturers to limit the introduction of extraneous DNA in plastics used during the DNA analysis of crime scene samples.

This past year, ASCLD delivered its second Leadership Academy during which participants receive 40 hours of a blended instruction model (webinar and in-person capstone) on topics related to the skills needed to be a successful leader in the 21st Century crime laboratory. Over the course of two years, ASCLD has provided more than 5,600 hours of instruction to more than 140 students.

ASCLD has also continued its efforts to deliver current information and facilitate discussion on important topics facing the forensic community. Over the course of the past year, ASCLD has continued to partner with the Forensic Science Center of Excellence, RTI on a series of webinars on Rapid DNA analysis. Three 1-hour webinars were hosted on the validation, current use, and future implementation of this novel technology. There were more than 350 participants in this series that represented all 50 states plus a significant international presence.

ASCLD's Forensic Research Committee also developed a *Validations and R&D* repository that is available to members on the ASCLD website (<http://www.asclcd.org>). This portal is intended to be a warehouse of validation projects completed by laboratories for instrumentation, methodologies, etc. that are adopted by laboratories for use in testing crime scene evidence. Crime laboratories and members are invited to upload a summary of their validation project using the portal. This repository can also be searched by members if they are considering validating a new validation project. Please visit our website for additional information on becoming a member, learning more about the *Validations and R&D*, or any of our other initiatives.

Finally, the 42nd Annual ASCLD Symposium is fast approaching. The theme for the 2015 ASCLD symposium is ***“Excellence in Forensic Leadership”***. The Symposium Planning Committee has been working hard to bring you a full agenda of workshops and symposium sessions focused on the Excellence in Forensic Leadership as well as how this translates to policy and practice in the 21st Century crime laboratory. Additionally, ASCLD is proud to announce that we will also be hosting the International Forensic Strategic Alliance meeting in conjunction with the 2015 symposium. The ***2015 symposium is April 26th-30th, 2015*** at the ***Washington Marriott Wardman Park***, 2660 Woodley Road NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. Additional information can be found at <http://www.ascldsymposium.com/>.

[International Association of Forensic Nurses \(IAFN\)](#)



IAFN members are looking forward to its legislative conference that will occur on March 17-18, 2015. In 2014 IAFN was actively advocating for training standards across the U.S. armed forces in relating to sexual assault forensic examiners/sexual assault nurse examiners. Thanks to efforts of Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and others this issue was resolved in the National Defense Authorization Act.

For 2015, IAFN is looking to engage the Congress on issues relating to funding for nursing training and research; funding for important programs within the Department of Justice to implement the Violence Against Women Act; policy relating to sexual assault on college campuses; and the need to reauthorize elder justice programs within the Older Americans Act.

On February 27, 2015, IAFN wrote to the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Special Programs Office requesting creation of a Scientific Area Subcommittee under the Scientific Area Committee (SAC) Crime Scene and Death Investigation for forensic nursing and other healthcare providers who interface with victims called Forensic Healthcare Providers. IAFN believes forensic nurses play a key role in the collection of evidence from victims of sexual assault or domestic violence incidents. The timely and proper collection of evidence by forensic nurses is vitally important and has downstream effects in the forensic analysis of evidence and its presentation in the courtroom.

[International Association of Identification \(IAI\)](#)



The IAI with its 7,000 plus members continues to support and work with the CFSO member organizations in furtherance of forensic science and its associated disciplines. The IAI during its Centennial Annual Educational Conference August 2-8, 2015 in Sacramento, CA (<https://www.theiai.org/conference/centennial.php>) will host a

presentation by the CFSO. The presentation will address the Cornyn/Leahy Legislation and agenda items of concern to the CFSO among other topics. In addition, the IAI will be hosting an OSAC plenary session.

[National Association of Medical Examiners \(NAME\)](#)



Recent CFSO accomplishments that are particularly pertinent to NAME include the following:

1. Key player in securing full funding of Coverdell at \$12 million by influencing the Senate to fund and House to recede to the Senate despite a request of \$0 from President Obama;
2. Pushed NIST to include practitioners on OSACs with calls and letters. Several of these practitioners are NAME members;
3. Pushed the Commission on Forensic Science to include practitioners;
4. Collaborated with NAME, Laura Crandall, and Victor Weedn on the SIDS/SUDC bill with CFSO letter and calls to key Members (see below);
5. Currently working on a new draft of Forensic Reform with comments/input from NAME and obtaining commitments of Republicans and Democrats to reintroduce with changes in this 114th Congress.

Sudden Death in the Young legislation (HR.669/S.314)

CFSO worked with NAME to help with support of the House and Senate bills. After six years, the bill had bipartisan and bicameral support and was passed. It may be cited as: **“Sudden Unexpected Death Data Enhancement and Awareness Act**



This legislation will provide for the continued development and updating of protocols and data collection related to stillbirths and sudden, unexpected deaths in both infants and children. By better understanding the causes of unexpected sudden death, we can do more to improve the health of infants and children. The bill covers stillbirths, SUID, and SUDC. <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr669/text>

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FORENSIC SCIENCE

The sixth commission meeting will be in Washington DC on April 30 – May 1, 2015 at the Office of Justice Programs Building located at 810 7th Street, NW. The CFSO will be monitoring any documents being posted in advance of this meeting and will respond with comments from Member Organizations. Check the NCFCS website for periodic updates of documents or register with federal register to receive notification.

ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC AREA COMMITTEES

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Scientific Area Committee (SAC) priority discussions from the Orlando meetings are available on the NIST website at <http://www.nist.gov/forensics/aafs-2015-webcast.cfm>. NIST is also working on a comprehensive listing of the priorities presented by each SAC.

NIST received \$3M in FY 2014 and \$3M in FY 2015 to launch and operate the Organization of Scientific Area Committees (OSAC). There is a projection of \$3M included in President's FY 2016 budget for continuing operations.

NEW CFSO ADVOCACY DOCUMENTS

- [**Needed Subcommittees on OSAC Structure — March 9, 2015**](#)
- [**Coverdell Appropriations Request — March 10, 2015**](#)
- [**CFSO Position Statement on HR 320: Rapid DNA Act of 2015 — March 11, 2015**](#)

CLOSING

We hope you have enjoyed the newsletter. Each month CFSO will do its best to keep you abreast of the most important news in the forensic community that we represent, as well as important legislation topics. Please see the next section for important state legislation.

IMPORTANT STATE LEGISLATION

California	Title /Information	Bill Number	Topic	Status
	Post conviction Testing	AB 818	<p>Existing law allows an incarcerated person who has been convicted of a felony to make a written motion for the performance of forensic deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) testing according to a specified procedure. Existing law allows the court to order a hearing on the motion if the court determines the convicted person has met specified requirements and that the hearing is necessary. Existing law requires the motion to be granted if certain facts have been established, including, among others, that the identity of the perpetrator of the crime was, or should have been, a significant issue in the case. <i>This bill would authorize a party in a criminal action to make a written motion for the comparison of DNA evidence, latent fingerprint evidence, or firearms-related evidence with information contained in relevant databases.</i> The bill would require the party seeking the comparison to provide written notice, as specified, 30 court days prior to a hearing on the motion. <i>The bill would require the court to grant the motion if, in the case of a DNA comparison, the source of the DNA profile is material to guilt or innocence, in the case of latent print comparison, the comparison may identify the putative perpetrator of the crime, or, in the case of firearms-related evidence comparison, the comparison may provide evidence that is material to guilt or innocence.</i> The bill would require that the local law enforcement agency conduct the comparison and provide the results of any comparison to the court. The bill would require the court, if the results are material, to disclose the results to the parties. By imposing additional duties on local law enforcement agencies with regard to evidence comparison, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement. This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions. Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes. https://www.govtrack.us/states/ca/bills/fdcb073b93e9/ab818</p>	Heard in Committee on 3/29/15

Colorado	Adds forensic nurses to the medical personnel when collecting kits	SB 128	Current law requires a medical facility to report to law enforcement when certain medical personnel collect medical forensic evidence of a sexual assault (evidence) if the victim consents. The bill adds nurses to the medical personnel. The bill requires the report to be: A law enforcement report if the victim requests that the evidence be collected and at the time of the medical treatment chooses to participate in the criminal justice system; A medical report if the victim requests that the evidence be collected but at the time of the medical treatment chooses not to participate in the criminal justice system; or An anonymous report if the victim consents to the collection of the evidence but at the time of the medical treatment chooses not to have personal identifying information disclosed to law enforcement or to participate in the criminal justice system. For an anonymous report, the medical facility shall not provide information identifying the victim to law enforcement, and law enforcement shall not submit the evidence for testing. For a law enforcement or medical report, law enforcement shall submit the evidence for testing pursuant to existing law. The bill clarifies that a victim may speak anonymously to law enforcement and that no report is required if evidence is not collected https://www.govtrack.us/states/co/bills/3d94b168d29d/sb128	February 24, 2015 assigned to Public Health Care & Human Services.
Hawaii	Sexual Assault Response Team	SB275	-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. https://www.govtrack.us/states/hi/bills/3d94b168d29d/sb275	Makes appropriations. (SD1), measure deferred until March 4, 2015.
	Evidence Retention	SB152	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. https://www.govtrack.us/states/hi/bills/3d94b168d29d/sb152	February 25, 2015 the committees on JDL recommend that the measure be passed with amendments.
	DNA Sample Collection	SB211	Specifies the requirements of DNA sample collection from subject criminal offenders that are released on parole, probation, or other release.	February 25, 2015 the

			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. https://www.govtrack.us/states/hi/bills/3d94b168d29d/sb211	committee on JDL recommends that the measure be passed with amendments.
Illinois	Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment Program Fund.	HB3848	An act that amends the Sexual Assault Survivors Emergency Treatment Act. Creates the Illinois Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment Program Fund. Prohibits a hospital, health care professional, ambulance provider, laboratory, or pharmacy furnishing hospital emergency services, forensic services, transportation, or medication to a sexual assault survivor from directly billing the survivor. Requires every hospital and health care professional to establish a billing protocol to ensure that no sexual assault survivor is billed for treatment. Contains penalty provisions. Makes other changes. Amends the State Finance Act. Creates the Illinois Sexual Assault Emergency Treatment Program Fund as a special fund in the State treasury. https://www.govtrack.us/states/il/bills/32570542c593/hb3848	February 27, 2015 referred to Rules Committee
	Coroner Training Board Act	HB4054	A bill that creates the Coroner Training Board Act. Creates the Coroner Training Board which will have the power to establish application, training, and certification standards for coroners, and to review and approve annual training curriculum for coroners. Provides that the new Board will select and certify coroner training schools, shall conduct or approve a training program in death investigation for the training of coroners, and be allowed to accept contributions and gifts from any organization having a legitimate interest in coroner training. Amends the Illinois Police Training Act and the Counties Code removing the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board from overseeing coroner training and replacing with the Coroner Training Board. Amends the Vital Records Act providing that 25% of the Death Certificate Surcharge Fund may be used by the Coroner Training Board (currently the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board) for the purpose of training coroners, deputy coroners, and forensic pathologists, and police officers for death (currently homicide) investigations and lodging and travel expenses relating to training.	February 27, 2015 referred to Rules Committee.

			https://www.govtrack.us/states/il/bills/32570542c593/hb4054	
	Synthetic Drug ID Pilot Program	HB3588	<p>Synthetic Drug ID Pilot Program, creates the Synthetic Drug Identification Pilot Program Act. Provides that at least once every 90 days, and in consultation with the Division of Forensic Services of the Department of State Police, the Department of Human Services shall submit a report to the Governor, Attorney General, and General Assembly outlining whether the Division of Forensic Services of the Department of State Police has identified any new chemical formulas that are used to make synthetic cannabinoids or cathinones (synthetic drugs) that are not currently illegal under State law. Provides that if the Department of Human Services' report to the Governor, Attorney General, and General Assembly confirms the Department of Human Services has identified new chemical formulas that are used to make synthetic drugs, the Department Human Services shall as soon as practicable propose an emergency rule to add any new chemical formulas to the current list of chemical formulas that are listed in the Illinois Controlled Substances Act as Schedule I controlled substances, and adopt the proposed rule as quickly as allowed for under the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. Provides that if the Department of Human Services adopts the emergency rule, the new rule shall be recognized as law under the Illinois Controlled Substances Act. Provides that the Department of State Police, by rule, shall create a pilot program that uses technologies and protocols to instantly identify synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones (synthetic drugs), as well as other designer drugs. Provides that the pilot program shall focus on using technology capable of presumptive identification of illicit drugs in the field. Repeals the Act on July 30, 2018. Amends the Illinois Controlled Substances Act to make conforming changes. Effective immediately.</p> <p>https://www.govtrack.us/states/il/bills/32570542c593/hb3588</p>	February 26, 2015 referred to Rules Committee.
	Identify new chemical formulas that are used to make synthetic cannabinoids or cathinones	HB 366	<p>Cont Sub-emergency schedule Amends the Illinois Controlled Substances Act. Provides that at least every 90 days, and in consultation with the Department of State Police Division of Forensic Services and the State Board of Pharmacy of the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, the Department of Human Services shall send official correspondence to the Governor, Attorney General, and the General Assembly describing whether the Department of Human Services has identified any new chemical formulas that are used to make synthetic cannabinoids or cathinones (synthetic drugs) that are not currently illegal</p>	February 26, 2015 referred to Rules Committee.

			<p>under State law. Provides that to identify new chemical formulas, the Department shall routinely communicate with the Department of State Police Division of Forensic Services, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Scientific Working Group for the Analysis of Seized Drugs (SWDRUG), and other state boards that schedule controlled substances. Provides that if the Department's official correspondence to the Governor, Attorney General, and General Assembly confirms that the Department has identified new chemical formulas that are used to make synthetic drugs, the Department shall immediately propose an emergency rule to add any new chemical formulas to the current list of chemical formulas that are listed in the Act as scheduled controlled substances, and adopt the proposed rule as quickly as allowed for under the Department's notice and public comment rules. Provides that if the Department adopts the emergency rule, the rule shall take effect as quickly as allowed under the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act, and the new rule shall have the force of law under the Act. Provides that any emergency rule adopted under this provision shall be inoperative 12 months from the date that the emergency rule becomes effective, or when the General Assembly by law takes action to ratify, change, or reject the emergency rule adopted by the Department. Provides that nothing in these provisions shall interfere with the exemptions provided for under State law to any person or entity that possesses a chemical formula defined as a scheduled controlled substance for a lawful purposes.</p> <p>https://www.govtrack.us/states/il/bills/32570542c593/hb3660</p>	
Kentucky	Number of untested sexual assault examinations kits	SJR 20	<p>JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Auditor of Public Accounts to report on the number of untested sexual assault examinations kits in the possession of Kentucky law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies.</p> <p>https://www.govtrack.us/states/ky/bills/3d94b168d29d/sjr20</p>	Received in House.
Maryland	Accreditation	HB1207	<p>For the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene for a certain purpose to require that certain forensic laboratories be accredited by a certain accreditation body; specifying that certain required inspections be conducted for certain forensic laboratories in the State ;requiring a forensic laboratory to obtain accreditation from a certain accreditation body before applying for a certain license ; defining a certain term ;and generally relating to the regulation of forensic 8 laboratories in the State.</p>	February 26, 2015 first reading House Rules and Executive Nominations.

			https://www.govtrack.us/states/md/bills/3d94b168d29d/hb1207	
New Jersey	Advocates for victims of sexual assault	S2357	A bill to require institutions of higher education to provide advocates for victims of sexual assault. https://www.govtrack.us/states/nj/bills/413e4d3f5b59/s2357	February 24, 2015 referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.
New York	Processing evidence related to sexual assault	A04524	An ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the state sexual offense forensic evidence index and the processing of evidence related to sexual offenses.,. https://www.govtrack.us/states/ny/bills/951b5db9504c/a04524	Print number 4524 March 3, 2015
	Establish state sexual offense forensic evidence index	SO1455	An ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the state sexual offense forensic evidence index and the processing of evidence related to sexual offenses. https://www.govtrack.us/states/ny/bills/951b5db9504c/s01455	February 25, 2015 print number 1455A
Mississippi	Rename forensic lab	SB2159	SB2159, rename “Mississippi Forensics Laboratory”, https://www.govtrack.us/states/ms/bills/3d94b168d29d/sb2159	N/A
Tennessee	Sexual assault evidence collection	HB1239	As introduced this bill creates a protocol for the collection of sexual assault evidence kits, and for the submission of certain kits to the police. https://www.govtrack.us/states/tn/bills/3f32eacfac48/hb1239	February 24, 2015 assigned to the s/c Criminal Justice Subcommittee.
Texas	Appointment of forensic medical director	HB2023	Relating to the appointment of a forensic medical director responsible for statewide coordination and oversight of forensic mental health services provided by the Department of State Health Services. https://www.govtrack.us/states/tx/bills/06e81db16d40/hb2023	February 27, 2015 filed.
	Postconviction forensic DNA analysis	SB487	Relating to postconviction forensic DNA analysis. https://www.govtrack.us/states/tx/bills/06e81db16d40/sb487	February 24, 2015 co-authorized.
Virginia	DNA data bank	HB1578	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	February 25, 2015 enrolled bill

			<p>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.</p> <p>https://www.govtrack.us/states/va/bills/3d94b168d29d/hb1578</p>	communicated to Governor,
Washington	Collection of blood samples	SB 5066-	<p>An ACT relating to the collection of blood samples for forensic testing; amending RCW 46.61.506 and 46.61.508; adding a new section to chapter 18.130 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 46.04 RCW.4.</p> <p>https://www.govtrack.us/states/wa/bills/fdcb073b93e9/sb5066</p>	February 23, 2015 made eligible to be placed on second reading
West Virginia	Salary schedules	SB549	<p>A bill to establish classifications and salary schedules for State Police forensic lab civilian employees.</p> <p>https://www.govtrack.us/states/wv/bills/3d94b168d29d/sb549</p>	Sent to House Finance March 3, 2015
Wyoming	Forensic Medical Examinations	HBO195	<p>An ACT relating to sexual assaults; establishing procedures to determine whether a backlog of sexual assault medical examinations exists; providing for an accounting of forensic medical examination information; requiring rulemaking; requiring reports; providing definitions; providing an appropriation; authorizing a position; providing a repeal date as specified; and providing for an effective date.</p> <p>https://www.govtrack.us/states/wy/bills/3d94b168d29d/hb0195</p>	PASS FAILED in accordance with House Rule 5-4; 4-5-0