

9946

I N A S S E M B L Y

May 2, 2016

Introduced by M. of A. RICHARDSON -- read once and referred to the
Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to the processing of
evidence related to sexual offenses and the inclusion of such results
in the state DNA identification index

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEM-
BLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Subdivisions 2 and 9 of section 995 of the executive law,
2 as added by chapter 737 of the laws of 1994, are amended to read as
3 follows:
4 2. For purposes of forensic DNA analysis, the term "forensic DNA labo-
5 ratory" shall mean any forensic laboratory operated by the state or unit
6 of local government, that performs forensic DNA testing on crime scenes,
7 FORENSIC TESTING ON EVIDENCE OF SEXUAL OFFENSES or materials derived
8 from the human body for use as evidence in a criminal proceeding or for
9 purposes of identification and the term "forensic DNA testing" shall
10 mean any test that employs techniques to examine deoxyribonucleic acid
11 (DNA) derived from the human body for the purpose of providing informa-
12 tion to resolve issues of identification. Regulation pursuant to this
13 article shall not include DNA testing on materials derived from the
14 human body pursuant to title five of article five of the public health
15 law for the purpose of determining a person's genetic disease or medical
16 condition and shall not include a laboratory operated by the federal
17 government.
18 9. "DNA subcommittee" shall mean the subcommittee on forensic DNA
19 laboratories and forensic DNA AND SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE test-
20 ing established pursuant to subdivision thirteen of section nine hundred
21 ninety-five-b of this article.
22 S 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 995-b of the executive
23 law, as added by chapter 737 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as
24 follows:
25 (b) ensure that forensic analyses, including forensic DNA testing AND
26 SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE TESTING, are performed in accordance
27 with the highest scientific standards practicable;

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 S 3. Subdivisions 7, 11, 12 and 13 of section 995-b of the executive
2 law, as added by chapter 737 of the laws of 1994 and paragraph (a) of
3 subdivision 13 as amended by chapter 560 of the laws of 1999, are
4 amended to read as follows:

5 7. The commission and DNA subcommittee may establish, appoint, and set
6 terms of members to as many advisory councils as it deems necessary to
7 provide specialized expertise to the commission with respect to new
8 forensic technologies including DNA testing methodologies AND SEXUAL
9 OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE TESTING METHODOLOGIES.

10 11. Upon the recommendation of the DNA subcommittee established pursu-
11 ant to subdivision thirteen of this section, the commission shall desig-
12 nate one or more approved methodologies for the performance of forensic
13 DNA testing AND SEXUAL ASSAULT FORENSIC EVIDENCE, and shall review and
14 act upon applications by forensic DNA laboratories for approval to
15 perform forensic DNA testing.

16 12. Promulgate standards for a determination of a match between the
17 DNA records contained in the state DNA identification index and a DNA
18 record of a person OR SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE submitted for
19 comparison therewith.

20 13. (a) The commission shall establish a subcommittee on forensic DNA
21 laboratories and forensic DNA AND SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE test-
22 ing. The chair of the subcommittee shall be appointed by the chair of
23 the commission. The chair of the subcommittee shall appoint six other
24 members to the subcommittee, one of whom shall represent the discipline
25 of molecular biology and be appointed upon the recommendation of the
26 commissioner of the department of health, one of whom shall represent
27 the discipline of population genetics and be appointed upon the recom-
28 mendation of the commissioner of the department of health, one of whom
29 shall be representative of the discipline of laboratory standards and
30 quality assurance regulation and monitoring and be appointed upon the
31 recommendation of the commissioner of the department of health, one of
32 whom shall be a forensic scientist and be appointed upon the recommenda-
33 tion of the commissioner of the department of health, one of whom shall
34 be representative of the discipline of population genetics and be
35 appointed upon the recommendation of the commissioner of criminal
36 justice services and one of whom shall be representative of the disci-
37 pline of forensic science and be appointed upon the recommendation of
38 the commissioner of criminal justice services. Members of the DNA
39 subcommittee shall serve for three year terms and be subject to the
40 conditions of service specified in section nine hundred ninety-five-a of
41 this article.

42 (b) The DNA subcommittee shall assess and evaluate all DNA AND SEXUAL
43 OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE methodologies proposed to be used for forensic
44 analysis, and make reports and recommendations to the commission as it
45 deems necessary. The DNA subcommittee shall make binding recommendations
46 for adoption by the commission addressing minimum scientific standards
47 to be utilized in conducting forensic DNA AND SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC
48 EVIDENCE analysis including, but not limited to, examination of speci-
49 mens, population studies and methods employed to determine probabilities
50 and interpret test results. The DNA subcommittee may require a demon-
51 stration by an independent laboratory of any proposed forensic DNA OR
52 SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE testing methodology proposed to be used
53 by a forensic laboratory.

54 (c) The DNA subcommittee shall make binding recommendations for
55 adoption by the commission with regard to an accreditation program for
56 laboratories performing forensic DNA AND SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC

1 EVIDENCE testing in accordance with the provisions of the state adminis-
2 trative procedure act. Such recommendations shall include the adoption
3 and implementation of internal and external proficiency testing
4 programs, including, if possible, a blind external proficiency testing
5 program for forensic laboratories performing forensic DNA AND SEXUAL
6 OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE testing. The DNA subcommittee shall also
7 provide the commission with a list of accepted proficiency testers.

8 (d) The DNA subcommittee shall be authorized to advise the commission
9 on any other matters regarding the implementation of scientific controls
10 and quality assurance procedures for the performance of forensic DNA AND
11 SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE testing, or on any other matters
12 referred to it by the commission.

13 S 4. Section 995-d of the executive law, as added by chapter 737 of
14 the laws of 1994 and subdivision 2 as amended by chapter 560 of the laws
15 of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

16 S 995-d. Confidentiality. 1. All records, findings, reports, and
17 results of DNA AND SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE testing performed on
18 any person shall be confidential and may not be disclosed or redisclosed
19 without the consent of the subject of such DNA OR SEXUAL OFFENSE FOREN-
20 SIC EVIDENCE testing. Such records, findings, reports and results shall
21 not be released to insurance companies, employers or potential employ-
22 ers, health providers, employment screening or personnel companies,
23 agencies, or services, private investigation services, and may not be
24 disclosed in response to a subpoena or other compulsory legal process or
25 warrant, or upon request or order of any agency, authority, division,
26 office, corporation, partnership, or any other private or public entity
27 or person, except that nothing contained herein shall prohibit disclo-
28 sure in response to a subpoena issued on behalf of the subject of such
29 DNA OR SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE record or on behalf of a party
30 in a civil proceeding where the subject of such DNA OR SEXUAL OFFENSE
31 FORENSIC EVIDENCE record has put such record in issue.

32 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision one of this section,
33 records, findings, reports, and results of DNA testing, other than a DNA
34 record maintained in the state DNA identification index, may be
35 disclosed in a criminal proceeding to the court, the prosecution, and
36 the defense pursuant to a written request on a form prescribed by the
37 commissioner of the division of criminal justice services. Notwith-
38 standing the provisions of subdivision one of this section, a DNA OR
39 SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE record maintained in the state DNA
40 identification index may be disclosed pursuant to section nine hundred
41 ninety-five-c of this article.

42 S 5. Section 995-e of the executive law, as added by chapter 737 of
43 the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

44 S 995-e. Applicability. This article shall not apply to a forensic DNA
45 laboratory operated by any agency of the federal government, or to any
46 forensic DNA test OR SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE TEST performed by
47 any such federal laboratory.

48 S 6. Section 995-f of the executive law, as amended by chapter 560 of
49 the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

50 S 995-f. Penalties. Any person who (a) intentionally discloses a DNA
51 record, [or] the results of a forensic DNA test or analysis, OR THE
52 RESULT OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE TEST OF ANALYSIS, to an
53 individual or agency other than one authorized to have access to such
54 records pursuant to this article or (b) intentionally uses or receives
55 DNA records, [or] the results of a forensic DNA test or analysis, OR THE
56 RESULTS OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE TEST OF ANALYSIS, for

1 purposes other than those authorized pursuant to this article or (c) any
2 person who knowingly tampers or attempts to tamper with any DNA sample
3 [or], the collection container OR SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE
4 SAMPLE without lawful authority shall be guilty of a class E felony.

5 S 7. Subdivisions 6 and 7 of section 995-c of the executive law, as
6 added by chapter 737 of the laws of 1994, are amended and a new subdivi-
7 sion 10 is added to read as follows:

8 6. DNA AND SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE records contained in the
9 state DNA identification index shall be released only for the following
10 purposes:

11 (a) to a federal law enforcement agency, or to a state or local law
12 enforcement agency or district attorney's office for law enforcement
13 identification purposes upon submission of a DNA record in connection
14 with the investigation of the commission of one or more crimes or to
15 assist in the recovery or identification of specified human remains,
16 including identification of missing persons, provided that there exists
17 between the division and such agency a written agreement governing the
18 use and dissemination of such DNA records in accordance with the
19 provisions of this article;

20 (b) for criminal defense purposes, to a defendant or his or her repre-
21 sentative, who shall also have access to samples and analyses performed
22 in connection with the case in which such defendant is charged;

23 (c) after personally identifiable information has been removed by the
24 division, to an entity authorized by the division for the purpose of
25 creating or maintaining a population statistics database or for iden-
26 tification research and protocol development for forensic DNA analysis
27 or quality control purposes; AND

28 (D) IN THE CASE OF A VICTIM OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE, SUCH VICTIM SHALL
29 HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION REGARDING:

30 (I) WHETHER A SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE TEST IS PERFORMED BY
31 ANY FORENSIC DNA LABORATORY;

32 (II) WHETHER THE RESULT OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE TEST OF
33 ANALYSIS WAS ENTERED INTO THE STATE DNA IDENTIFICATION INDEX; AND

34 (III) WHETHER THERE IS A MATCH BETWEEN THE RESULT OF A SEXUAL OFFENSE
35 EVIDENCE TEST OF ANALYSIS AND THE STATE DNA IDENTIFICATION INDEX.

36 7. Requests for DNA AND SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE records must
37 be in writing, or in a form prescribed by the division authorized by the
38 requesting party, and, other than a request pursuant to paragraph (b) of
39 subdivision six of this section, maintained on file at the state DNA
40 identification index in accordance with rules and regulations promulgat-
41 ed by the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services.

42 10. (A) THE COMMISSIONER OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION
43 WITH THE DNA SUBCOMMITTEE AND THE COMMISSION, IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO
44 ESTABLISH A PLAN FOR THE TIMELY TESTING OF SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC
45 EVIDENCE AND THE INCLUSION OF THE RESULTS OF SUCH TESTING IN THE DNA
46 IDENTIFICATION INDEX PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE.

47 (B) ANY FORENSIC EVIDENCE COLLECTED OR OBTAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE
48 INVESTIGATION OF A CRIME OR OFFENSE CONTAINED IN ARTICLE ONE HUNDRED
49 THIRTY OF THE PENAL LAW SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE STATE DNA IDENTIFICA-
50 TION INDEX PURSUANT TO THIS ARTICLE. THIS SUBDIVISION DOES NOT REQUIRE A
51 FORENSIC DNA LABORATORY TO TEST ALL ITEMS OF FORENSIC EVIDENCE OBTAINED
52 IN A SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE EXAMINATION OR A SEXUAL OFFENSE
53 INVESTIGATION. FOR THE PURPOSE OF TIMELY PROCESSING OF SEXUAL OFFENSE
54 FORENSIC EVIDENCE, THIS SUBDIVISION INTENDS TO ENSURE THAT THE BEST
55 EVIDENCE IS SELECTED AND ANALYZED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AMONG THE
56 REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF FORENSIC EVIDENCE, BASED ON THE MEDICAL EXAM-

INATION OR THE SEXUAL OFFENSE INVESTIGATION, THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF THAT EVIDENCE, AND THE TRANSFER OF THE EVIDENCE FROM THE MEDICAL FACILITY OR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO THE FORENSIC DNA LABORATORY.

(C) (I) NO LATER THAN TEN BUSINESS DAYS AFTER BEING BOOKED INTO EVIDENCE, A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT RECEIVES SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE SHALL FORWARD SUCH EVIDENCE TO ANY FORENSIC DNA LABORATORY WHICH HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE COMMISSION TO PERFORM SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE TESTING AND ANALYSIS FOR INCLUSION IN THE STATE DNA IDENTIFICATION INDEX.

(II) SUCH LABORATORY SHALL PERFORM THE REQUISITE TESTING AND ANALYSIS WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF ITS RECEIPT OF THE SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE IF SUFFICIENT STAFFING AND RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE. AN ANALYSIS SHALL INCLUDE AN EXAMINATION OF DNA EVIDENCE, DEVELOPMENT OF A POTENTIAL SUSPECT PROFILE, AND THE FORWARDING OF THE RESULTING DNA RECORD TO THE STATE DNA IDENTIFICATION INDEX IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES.

(D) THE FAILURE OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY TO SUBMIT SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE WITHIN THE PERIOD REQUIRED BY THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL NOT AFFECT THE AUTHORITY OF (I) THE AGENCY TO SUBMIT THE EVIDENCE TO A FORENSIC DNA LABORATORY FOR ANALYSIS OR (II) OF A FORENSIC DNA LABORATORY TO ANALYZE THE EVIDENCE OR PROVIDE THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS TO THE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND THE STATE DNA IDENTIFICATION INDEX.

(E) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN POSSESSION OF SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE THAT HAS NOT BEEN FORWARDED TO A FORENSIC DNA LABORATORY WITHIN THE TIME FRAME REQUIRED BY THIS SUBDIVISION SHALL: (I) BY SEPTEMBER FIRST OF EACH YEAR SUBMIT TO THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES A LIST OF THE AGENCY'S ACTIVE CRIMINAL CASES FOR WHICH SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE HAS NOT YET BEEN FORWARDED TO A FORENSIC DNA LABORATORY; AND (II) SUBMIT TO THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES OR A FORENSIC DNA LABORATORY, AS APPROPRIATE AND SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF STORAGE SPACE, ALL SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE PERTAINING TO THOSE ACTIVE CRIMINAL CASES THAT HAS NOT YET BEEN SUBMITTED FOR LAB ANALYSIS WITHIN TWO YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION.

(F) NO LATER THAN ONE YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBDIVISION, THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR AND THE APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND THE ASSEMBLY A REQUEST FOR ANY NECESSARY FUNDING TO ACCOMPLISH ANALYSES OF SEXUAL OFFENSE FORENSIC EVIDENCE REQUIRED BY THIS SUBDIVISION.

(G) THE DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES MAY SOLICIT APPROPRIATE GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN FURTHERANCE OF THE ACTIVITIES REQUIRED BY THIS SUBDIVISION FROM FOUNDATIONS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS, UNDER SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THE DIVISION SHALL DEEM APPROPRIATE.

S 8. This act shall take effect September 1, 2017.