Florida Senate - 2006

By Senator Sebesta

16-1680A-06

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to forensic services;
3	designating the act the "Florida Forensic
4	Service and Technical Training Act"; amending
5	s. 943.04, F.S.; requiring the Criminal Justice
6	Investigations and Forensic Science Program
7	within the Department of Law Enforcement, in
8	consultation with a nationally prominent
9	partner, to provide training and technical
10	assistance to state, local, and other law
11	enforcement agencies in matters of forensic
12	science, assist crime laboratories in becoming
13	accredited, aid in the design or redesign of
14	forensic computer systems, and maintain
15	equipment and supplies at its Tallahassee
16	office or other regional laboratory sufficient
17	for the department to operate in another
18	location on a temporary basis if a local crime
19	laboratory is damaged or destroyed by a natural
20	disaster or other catastrophic event; providing
21	an effective date.
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23	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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25	Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida
26	Forensic Service and Technical Training Act."
27	Section 2. Subsection (6) is added to section 943.04,
28	Florida Statutes, to read:
29	943.04 Criminal Justice Investigations and Forensic
30	Science Program; creation; investigative, forensic, and
31	related authority
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CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words <u>underlined</u> are additions.

1	(6)(a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the
2	Department of Law Enforcement assist in improving the quality
3	and timeliness of forensic services within the criminal
4	justice community of this state. The goal of the Legislature
5	is that each state and local criminal justice entity improve
б	the quality and timeliness of its forensic-science analyses
7	and enhance the law enforcement entities' forensic services in
8	order to better ensure the safety of the residents of this
9	state.
10	(b) In order to achieve these goals, the Criminal
11	Justice Investigations and Forensic Science Program within the
12	Department of Law Enforcement shall, in consultation with a
13	partner such as the National Forensic Science Technology
14	Center, provide training and technical assistance to state,
15	local, and other law enforcement agencies in matters of
16	forensic science. The Criminal Justice Investigations and
17	Forensic Science Program shall:
18	1. Develop courses and training materials in topics of
19	forensic science which may be used to train appropriate staff
20	who are directly and substantially involved in providing
21	forensic-science analyses in crime laboratories and field
22	investigations and to court personnel and members of law
23	enforcement agencies. The forensic program may also assist
24	appropriate personnel to become certified in specific forensic
25	discipline areas if certification is directly related to the
26	job position and duties of the individual receiving the
27	training or seeking certification. All education, training,
28	and certification activities of the forensic program must be
29	designed to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic
30	services.
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1	2. Assist crime laboratories and law enforcement
2	agencies in becoming accredited by nationally recognized
3	laboratory accreditation organizations, including, but not
4	limited to, those organizations recognized by the Justice for
5	All Act, Pub.L. 108-405, which include the American Society of
6	Crime Laboratory Directors-Laboratory Accreditation Board, the
7	National Association of Medical Examiners, and Forensic
8	<u>Quality Services-FQS-1, or other appropriate accrediting</u>
9	bodies.
10	3. Cooperate with state and local law enforcement
11	agencies when those agencies design or redesign their computer
12	systems for crime laboratories and recommend the purchase of
13	computer hardware and software specifically developed for
14	forensic analyses and data management.
15	4. Maintain equipment and supplies at its Tallahassee
16	office or other regional laboratory sufficient for the
17	department to operate in another location on a temporary basis
18	when a local crime laboratory is damaged or destroyed by a
19	natural disaster or other catastrophic event.
20	Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.
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23	SENATE SUMMARY
24	Designates the act the "Florida Forensic Service and
25	Technical Training Act." Requires the Criminal Justice Investigations and Forensic Science Program within the
26	Department of Law Enforcement, in consultation with a nationally prominent partner, to provide training and
27	technical assistance to state, local, and other law enforcement agencies in matters of forensic science; to
28	assist crime laboratories in becoming accredited; to aid in the design or redesign of forensic computer systems;
29	and to maintain equipment and supplies at its Tallahassee office or other regional laboratory sufficient for the
30	department to operate in another location on a temporary basis if a local crime laboratory is damaged or destroyed
31	by a natural disaster or other catastrophic event.

SB 2502

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