

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to forensic services; providing a short title; amending s. 943.04, F.S.; requiring the Criminal Justice Investigations and Forensic Science Program within the Department of Law Enforcement, in consultation with a partner, to provide training and technical assistance to state, local, and other law enforcement agencies in matters of forensic science, assist crime laboratories in becoming accredited, aid in the design or redesign of forensic computer systems, and maintain equipment and supplies sufficient for the department to operate in another location on a temporary basis if a local crime laboratory is damaged or destroyed; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Florida Forensic Service and Technical Training Act."

Section 2. Subsection (6) is added to section 943.04, Florida Statutes, to read:

943.04 Criminal Justice Investigations and Forensic Science Program; ~~creation; investigative, forensic, and related authority.~~ --

(6) (a) It is the intent of the Legislature that the department assist in improving the quality and timeliness of forensic services within the criminal justice community of this state. The goal of the Legislature is that each state and local

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29 criminal justice entity improve the quality and timeliness of  
30 its forensic-science analyses and enhance the law enforcement  
31 entities' forensic services in order to better ensure the safety  
32 of the residents of this state.

33 (b) In order to achieve these goals, the Criminal Justice  
34 Investigations and Forensic Science Program within the  
35 department shall, in consultation with a partner such as the  
36 National Forensic Science Technology Center, provide training  
37 and technical assistance to state, local, and other law  
38 enforcement agencies in matters of forensic science. The  
39 Criminal Justice Investigations and Forensic Science Program  
40 shall:

41 1. Develop courses and training materials in topics of  
42 forensic science that may be used to train appropriate staff who  
43 are directly and substantially involved in providing forensic-  
44 science analyses in crime laboratories and field investigations  
45 and to court personnel and members of law enforcement agencies.  
46 The program may also assist an appropriate individual to become  
47 certified in a specific forensic discipline area if  
48 certification is directly related to the individual's job  
49 position and duties. All education, training, and certification  
50 activities of the forensic program must be designed to improve  
51 the quality and timeliness of forensic services.

52 2. Assist crime laboratories and law enforcement agencies  
53 in becoming accredited by nationally recognized laboratory  
54 accreditation organizations, including, but not limited to,  
55 those organizations recognized by the Justice for All Act, Pub.  
56 L. No. 108-405. Such organizations include the American Society

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57 of Crime Laboratory Directors-Laboratory Accreditation Board,  
58 the National Association of Medical Examiners, and Forensic  
59 Quality Services-International (FQS-I), as well as other  
60 appropriate accrediting bodies.

61 3. Cooperate with state and local law enforcement agencies  
62 when those agencies design or redesign their computer systems  
63 for crime laboratories and recommend the purchase of computer  
64 hardware and software specifically developed for forensic  
65 analyses and data management.

66 4. Maintain equipment and supplies at its Tallahassee  
67 office or a regional laboratory sufficient for the department to  
68 operate in another location on a temporary basis when a local  
69 crime laboratory is damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster  
70 or other catastrophic event.

71 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.