

By: Smith

H.B. No. 3957

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a rapid DNA analysis pilot program in certain counties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.1465 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.1465. RAPID DNA ANALYSIS PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "rapid DNA analysis" means the fully automated processing of a reference buccal swab sample to provide a DNA record that is eligible for comparison in the CODIS database in not more than 24 hours.

(b) The department shall establish a pilot program to optimize the process of reporting DNA records by assisting law enforcement agencies in implementing rapid DNA analysis of DNA samples collected under this subchapter.

(c) Beginning September 1, 2023, the pilot program shall operate and assist law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction in the following counties:

(1) El Paso;

(2) Galveston;

(3) Montgomery;

(4) Tarrant; and

(5) Travis.

(d) Beginning September 1, 2024, the department shall

1 expand the pilot program to assist law enforcement agencies with
2 jurisdiction in the following counties:

- 3 (1) Bexar;
- 4 (2) Collin;
- 5 (3) Dallas;
- 6 (4) Harris; and
- 7 (5) Hidalgo.

8 (e) The department and each law enforcement agency subject
9 to this section may consult with the Federal Bureau of
10 Investigation regarding rapid DNA analysis implementation and best
11 practices.

12 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, the department shall
13 review the pilot program established under this section and submit
14 a written report to the legislature on the progress made by the
15 pilot program in optimizing the reporting of DNA records and any
16 recommendations regarding the continuation or expansion of the
17 program.

18 (g) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
19 donations from any public or private source to fund the pilot
20 program.

21 (h) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement
22 this section.

23 (i) This section expires September 1, 2025.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.