

By: Gallegos

S.B. No. 1814

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to post conviction DNA review in criminal cases; providing a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Section 411.144, Government Code is amended by adding Subsection (I) to read as follows:

(a) The director by rule shall establish procedures for a DNA laboratory or criminal justice or law enforcement agency in the collection, preservation, shipment, analysis, and use of a blood sample or other specimen for forensic DNA analysis in a manner that permits the exchange of DNA evidence between DNA laboratories and the use of the evidence in a criminal case.

(b) A DNA laboratory or criminal justice or law enforcement agency shall follow the procedures:

(1) established by the director under this section; and

(2) specified by the FBI, including use of comparable test procedures, laboratory equipment, supplies, and computer software.

(c) The director may at any reasonable time enter and inspect the premises or audit the procedures of any DNA laboratory that provides DNA records or DNA forensic analyses to the department under this subchapter.

(d) A DNA laboratory conducting a DNA analysis under this

1 subchapter shall:

2 (1) forward the DNA record of the analysis to the
3 director at the department's crime laboratory or another location
4 as required by the department; and

5 (2) comply with this subchapter and rules adopted
6 under this subchapter.

7 (e) If a DNA laboratory violates this subchapter or a rule
8 adopted under this subchapter, the director may prohibit the
9 laboratory from exchanging DNA records with another DNA laboratory
10 or criminal justice or law enforcement agency. A DNA laboratory
11 prohibited from exchanging DNA records under this subsection may
12 petition the director for a hearing to show cause why the
13 laboratory's authority to exchange DNA records should be
14 reinstated.

15 (f) The director is the liaison for DNA data, records,
16 evidence, and other related matters between the FBI and a DNA
17 laboratory or a criminal justice or law enforcement agency.

18 (g) The director may:

19 (1) conduct DNA analyses; or

20 (2) contract with a laboratory, state agency, private
21 entity, or institution of higher education for services to perform
22 DNA analyses for the department.

23 (h) The institutional division may:

24 (1) collect a blood sample or other specimen for
25 forensic DNA analysis; or

26 (2) contract with a laboratory, state agency, private
27 entity, or institution of higher education for services to collect

1 a sample or other specimen under this subchapter.

2 (i) Any post-conviction review of DNA laboratory evidence
3 in a criminal case, requested by the prosecution, shall be under the
4 supervision of the director, and the director shall employ a
5 third-party consultant(s).

6 SECTION 2. Section 411.145, Government Code is amended by
7 adding Subsection (a)(3) to read as follows:

8 (a) The director may collect a reasonable fee under this
9 subchapter:

10 (1) for the DNA analysis of a blood sample or other
11 specimen submitted voluntarily to the department; ~~[or]~~

12 (2) for providing population statistics data or other
13 appropriate research data; or

14 (3) for supervising post-conviction reviews as
15 required by Section 411.144(i).

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.