

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Olympia, Washington

## Bill Analysis

Bill No. HB 1560

Relating to the state toxicology.

Brief title

Hearing Date 2/12/99

Reps McMorris & Scott

Sponsor(s)

Staff Scott MacColl

State Government Committee

Phone 786-7106

### BACKGROUND:

The State Toxicology was established in conjunction with the University of Washington Medical School and under the authority of the State Forensic Investigations. The state toxicology is part of the State Forensic Investigations and the council oversees and controls the toxicology.

The lab performs the necessary toxicological procedures requested by all coroners, medical examiners, and prosecuting attorneys. The lab is currently funded by disbursement of public services, state funds, private lands, sports, and entertainment facilities fees.

The criminal lab is also under the authority of the State Forensic Investigations and is housed within the Washington State Patrol. The criminal lab provides laboratory services analyzed and scientific analysis of physical evidence related to any crime.

The Forensic Investigations is actively involved in preparing the budget for both the criminal and toxicology and approves the budget prior to the formal submission to the Office of Financial Management.

### SUMMARY:

All powers, duties, functions, and employees of the State Toxicology are transferred to the Bureau of Forensic Laboratory Services of the Washington State Patrol.

The Bureau of Forensic Laboratory Services created within the Washington State Patrol which combines the toxicology and criminal lab under one bureau and it provides services of the two labs.

The Forensic Investigations will be involved in assisting in preparing the budget and must approve the budget prior to formal submission to the Office of Financial Management.

The Forensic Investigations will all prescribe the qualifications for directors and submit their names

to the chief of the Washington State Patrol as director of the Bureau of Forensic Services. The council will further appoint a state toxicologist, establish policies, objectives and priorities for the Bureau of Forensic Investigative Services.

**FISCAL NOTE:** Not requested.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Ninety days after adjournment of session which it is passed.