

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 6489

---

As of January 24, 2002

**Title:** An act relating to the convicted offender DNA data base.

**Brief Description:** Facilitating the convicted offender DNA data base.

**Sponsors:** Senators Costa, Roach, Benton, Long, Kastama, Winsley, Kline, Honeyford, Hargrove, Hale, Rossi, Eide, Swecker, T. Sheldon, Hochstatter, Snyder, Jacobsen, McCaslin, Rasmussen and Oke.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Human Services & Corrections: 1/25/02.

---

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & CORRECTIONS

**Staff:** Edith Rice (786-7444)

**Background:** Washington's DNA databank includes more than 33,000 DNA profiles of violent and sex offenders convicted since 1990. Recent advances in DNA identification science allow much more rapid and accurate matching of evidence from crime scenes to these databanks. With the help of a federal grant, Washington's Crime Lab has converted its databank to the new "short tandem repeat" (STR) technology, and entered the samples into the FBI's Combined DNA Index System. This system contains more than 460,000 samples from 34 states to be used by law enforcement agencies nationwide. Another result of STR conversion was the identification of a suspect in some of the notorious Green River murders of the 1980s.

In the first ten years of Washington's databank, there were seven "cold hits" to match crime scene evidence to offenders after traditional investigative methods had failed to identify a suspect. In the past six months, using the new STR matching, there have been 14 such "cold hits" " criminals who would not have been caught without this new tool.

Offenders convicted for felony sex or violent offenses are required to have a blood sample drawn to be entered in the DNA databank.

**Summary of Bill:** A new group of offenders are added to the existing list of those who are required to submit a biological sample (no longer a blood sample) to be entered into the convicted offender DNA data base. They are those adults or juveniles convicted of a felony, stalking, harassment, or communication with a minor for immoral purposes. Information from the data base can be used for criminal prosecution and the identification of human remains and missing persons. Testing on available samples is limited by funding available for this purpose, with priority to be given to samples of convicted felony sex and violent offenders. A fee is established as a legal financial obligation to pay for the collection of biological samples. A state DNA data base account is created in the office of the State Treasurer.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 21, 2002.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.