
SENATE BILL 5710

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators Padden and L. Wilson

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1 AN ACT Relating to reducing contamination in the state toxicology
2 laboratory; and amending RCW 43.43.670.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.43.670 and 1999 c 40 s 6 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) There is created in the Washington state patrol a bureau of
7 forensic laboratory services system which is authorized to:

8 (a) Provide laboratory services for the purpose of analyzing and
9 scientifically handling any physical evidence relating to any crime.

10 (b) Provide training assistance for local law enforcement
11 personnel.

12 (c) Provide all necessary toxicology services requested by all
13 coroners, medical examiners, and prosecuting attorneys.

14 (2) The bureau of forensic laboratory services shall assign
15 priority to a request for services with due regard to whether the
16 case involves criminal activity against persons. The Washington state
17 forensic investigations council shall assist the bureau of forensic
18 laboratory services in devising policies to promote the most
19 efficient use of laboratory services consistent with this section.
20 The forensic investigations council shall be actively involved in the
21 preparation of the bureau of forensic laboratory services budget and

1 shall approve the bureau of forensic laboratory services budget prior
2 to its formal submission by the state patrol to the office of
3 financial management pursuant to RCW 43.88.030.

4 (3) The bureau of forensic laboratory services, in consultation
5 with the Washington state forensic investigations council, must adopt
6 rules by July 1, 2022, for the state toxicology laboratory, as
7 defined in RCW 43.103.020, requiring the laboratory to:

8 (a) Conduct periodic sampling and testing for contamination in
9 the laboratory and its other work areas; and

10 (b) Coordinate a periodic workplace safety assessment and
11 additional assessment of surfaces, air sampling, and laboratory
12 policies and procedures to be conducted by a federal agency or
13 private third party to include a corrective action report for noted
14 deficiencies.

15 (4) The Washington state forensic investigations council must
16 study and adopt recommendations and endorsements by July 1, 2022, for
17 reducing contamination in the laboratory, and implementing any
18 required legal disclosures to the laboratory's policies and
19 procedures.

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