

By the Committee on Fiscal Policy; and Senator McClain

594-03708-25

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to an expedited DNA testing grant program; creating s. 943.328, F.S.; defining the term "private lab"; creating the Expedited DNA Testing Grant Program within the Department of Law Enforcement; specifying potential grant recipients; providing purposes for the grants under the program; specifying eligible uses for such grant funds; requiring each grant recipient to provide a report to the executive director of the department within a certain timeframe; specifying the required contents of the report; requiring the department to adopt rules; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 943.328, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

943.328 Expedited DNA Testing Grant Program.—

(1) As used in this section, the term "private lab" means a DNA laboratory accredited pursuant to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 of the International Organization for Standardization and Federal Bureau of Investigation quality assurance standards or any laboratory deemed appropriate by the department.

(2) There is created within the department the Expedited DNA Testing Grant Program to award grants to law enforcement agencies in the processing and testing of DNA samples.

(3) The department shall annually award to law enforcement agencies any funds specifically appropriated for the grant

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program to cover processing and testing of DNA samples by private laboratories.

(4) Grants may be used by a law enforcement agency:

(a) When the technology or technique needed to process and test the evidence or DNA sample properly is not readily available at a local or state laboratory; or

(b) When, in the agency's judgment, justice is best served through expedited processing and testing of the evidence or sample.

(5) Each grant recipient shall provide to the executive director a report no later than 1 year after receipt of funding under the grant program. The report must include all of the following information:

(a) The amount of annual funding received.

(b) The number of cases tested.

(c) The type of DNA testing used, including the name of the laboratory to which such testing was outsourced, and the type of equipment used for the testing.

(d) The result of the testing.

(e) The average amount of time it took to make each such identification.

(6) The department shall adopt rules to implement and administer this section and to establish the process for the allocation of grant funds.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.