

## DNA LEGISLATION & NEWS

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Tim Schellberg tims@smithallinglane.com and Lisa Hurst lhurst@smithallinglane.com of Smith Alling Lane, P.S. provide nationwide governmental affair services to PE Biosystems. As part of the firm's representation weekly reports are generated which identify recent state and federal legislation and news articles. PE Biosystems has authorized Smith Alling Lane to make these reports available to anyone that requests them through this web site.

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*The information presented in these reports does not necessarily reflect the viewpoints of PE Biosystems or Smith Alling Lane, P.S.*

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The February 25, 2000 DNA report is attached. Relevant summaries are listed below.

These reports are prepared by Tim Schellberg and Lisa Hurst of Smith Alling Lane (253) 627-1091, on behalf of PE Biosystems.

### COMMENTS

1. The Mississippi legislation would significantly expand the state's DNA database to include all persons in state prison.
2. Media around the country focused on death penalty moratoriums and post-conviction DNA testing -- the issue was even discussed in presidential debates. See articles 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 17.
3. An article from the Los Angeles Times provides a good overview of national funding and backlog problems.

### STATE LEGISLATION

#### Forensic DNA

1. Georgia HB 1530 -- Study bill for post-conviction DNA testing.
2. Idaho HB 660 -- Transfers authority for DNA collection to State Police from Department of Law Enforcement (mostly a "housekeeping" bill).
3. Minnesota HB 3345 -- Allows complaints to be filed against unnamed defendants, provided there is sufficient DNA evidence.
4. Mississippi HB 1425 -- Expands DNA analysis requirements to include all persons in the custody of the state's Department of Corrections.

#### Genetic Privacy

5. Rhode Island HB 7905 -- Genetic information is the property of the individual. Requires notification when storage location of a sample is changed.
6. Rhode Island HB 2599 -- Prohibits insurance companies from using genetic testing in any aspect of coverage.

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### NEWS ARTICLES

#### Forensic DNA

1. Discussion of death penalty. Criticizes Florida for denying inmates access to DNA technology.
2. Men in Australian town volunteer DNA samples to help solve rape case. 600 samples expected.
3. Using DNA to exonerate inmates -- only Illinois and New York currently allow inmates unfettered access to technology. Mentions Senator Leahy's bill.
4. DNA evidence is allowing police to reopen unsolved cases. California has profiles on 40,000 of 125,000 collected samples, and newly collected samples are growing by 200 per day.
5. "DNA keeps rape cases alive, even without suspects".
6. Presidential Debates -- Gore and Bradley are asked for their view on a moratorium on death penalties based on new DNA technology.
7. Los Angeles County Crime Lab Director letter to editor supporting Proposition 15 to increase funding for crime labs. Focuses on successes DNA technology.
8. Many states resist DNA testing for inmates -- discusses National Commission on the Future for DNA Evidence recommendation for inmate access to testing.
9. National Public Radio report on death penalty moratorium and ongoing debate -- convicts proven innocent through DNA testing.
10. "Iowa lawmakers consider extending rape statute" -- in part based on new DNA technology.
11. National funding and coordination of DNA analysis is lagging.
12. "Scotland Yard puts names of 13,000 on database of racists" -- information includes DNA samples/evidence when available from crime scenes.
13. New York Times article criticizes judicial process -- points to lack of access to DNA testing for inmates.
14. President Clinton is questioned about moratorium on executions. Says he is "favorably disposed" to Sen. Leahy bill for DNA testing for deathrow inmates.
15. "State crime labs drowning in DNA deluge" -- good overview of backlog and funding difficulties facing crime labs.

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16. "Criminals can't hide from DNA. Advances helps cops catch even petty crooks." Mentions New York City's plan to upgrade DNA lab, costs are currently being determined -- Giuliani has promised money.

17. Kansas State Senator wants to put a hold on executions in order to review the process for potential flaws.

### **Genetic Privacy**

18. Article questions wisdom of Iceland's national DNA database.

19. Michigan legislature to consider a package of bills aimed at protecting genetic information.

20. Fight brews over genetic test results in Massachusetts Legislature. Lawmakers and insurers tussle over information.

21. Jerusalem IDF urged to complete DNA bank of soldiers.