

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.

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

The March 31, 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 Arizona (article 10 – no story) and Georgia (article 13 – no story) bills to require DNA samples from all felons both were considered recently, and Iowa has begun implementing its DNA sampling laws (article 3).
2. Michigan will consider a statutes of limitations bill (#3) and related discussions are in articles 19 & 22.
3. There were numerous articles this week on DNA backlogs and funding issues – see articles 2, 9, 17, 18, 20 & 21.
4. Congressional hearings were held on March 23 on several bills that would increase funding for DNA analysis, as well as allow for federal, military, and DC offender sampling (see articles 17 & 20). Testimony can be downloaded online at <http://www.house.gov/judiciary/3.htm> and was presented by the following:

Representative Benjamin Gilman (D-NY)	Dwight Adams, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI)	David Boyd, National Institute of Justice
Representative Andy Weiner (D-NY)	David Coffman, Florida Department of Law
Enforcement	
	Paul Ferrara, Virginia Division of Forensic Science.
	Michael Sheppo, ASCLD / Illinois State Police
	Barry Steinhardt, American Civil Liberties Union

STATE LEGISLATION

Forensic DNA

1. Florida HB 2147 -- Appropriations guidelines bill – expects 24,000 DNA samples to be added to DNA database.
2. Louisiana SB 110 – Post Conviction DNA testing.

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3. Michigan SB 1174 – eliminates the statute of limitations for certain crimes if DNA evidence is available.

7. New York AB 10145 & SB 7165 – requires DNA samples from unidentified dead and missing persons.

Genetic Privacy

4. Massachusetts SB 2159 – Insurance companies may not treat genetic information as a medical condition in the absence of a diagnosis.

NEWS ARTICLES

Forensic DNA

1. CNN – Panel discussion of post-conviction DNA testing for inmates.
2. Compares UK's DNA database to US DNA database efforts.
3. Iowa begins collecting DNA samples from certain prisoners and parolees.
4. Louisiana prosecutors who blocked DNA testing for inmate are being sued.
5. 14 million pounds in the budget for London's Police to improve DNA testing.
6. Louisiana legislature held hearing on post-conviction DNA testing bill SB 110 (list form -- no details).
7. US Representatives introduce bill similar to Senator Leahy's post-conviction DNA testing bill. Judiciary Committees in both chambers have agreed to hold hearings.
8. Maine town's police department to distribute ID Kits to parents – kit will contain DNA sample of their child. Lion's Club is purchasing kits.
9. Utah editorial – "Provide funding for DNA data".
10. Arizona House considers bill this week to require DNA testing of felony offenders (list form - no details).

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11. Maine crime lab plans to send 3000 DNA samples to outside lab at a cost of up to \$100,000.
12. Australian government makes ready to introduce legislation for DNA sampling laws similar to Great Britain's (at least for all convicts, at best for all arrestees) when 2000 Parliament convenes on April 4.
13. Georgia Legislature passed bill to require DNA sampling of all convicted felons (list form -- no details).
14. Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Assoc. ask Gov. Bush for moratorium on executions – mentions DNA exonerating evidence.
15. Virginia declines death row inmate's request for DNA testing.
16. Mississippi Inmate denied new trial by state's supreme court – inmate says DNA evidence will clear him.
17. Report on US House of Representatives hearing on DNA backlog and funding problems.
18. Chicago presses Congress and Illinois Legislature for more DNA money.
19. States around loosening statutes of limitation – but DNA backlog problems loom.
20. Report on US House of Representatives hearing on DNA backlog and funding problems.
21. Congressional Testimony – Washington, DC asks appropriations subcommittee for funding for DNA testing of offenders.
22. Discussion of statute of limitations in light of DNA evidence and current backlog problems.

Genetic Privacy

23. Biotech Conference discusses DNA testing of children for adoption.
24. Discussion of Iceland's genetic database and related privacy issues.
25. Great Britain's Government is ready to allow insurers to use genetic testing to help rate policy risks.
26. "Having the wrong genes can cost you your job" – Q & A on genetic testing in the workplace.