

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 168

SESSION: 2014 Regular Session

TOPIC: Forensic laboratories accreditation

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Overview

This act requires all forensic laboratories to be accredited and to provide the accreditation information to the department of public safety.

Section

1 Forensic Laboratories; accreditation.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Provides the definitions for “forensic analysis” and “forensic laboratory” and provides that the medical examiner, coroner, educational institutions, and medical facilities are not forensic laboratories for the purposes of this law.

Subd. 2. Forensic laboratories; mandatory accreditation; posting on Web site. Provides that a forensic laboratory operating after January 1, 2015, in forensic DNA; forensic toxicology; fingerprint, firearms, and bloodstain analysis; and other areas must be accredited by the named accrediting body or have begun the process of seeking accreditation and become accredited within three years. This act requires the forensic laboratory to send the commissioner of public safety the accreditation information or the statement that they are pursuing accreditation to be posted on the department of public safety web site. This act allows the commissioner of public safety to offer a one year extension to a laboratory that has not been accredited within the three years as provided in the bill.