

Senate Bill No. 1342

Passed the Senate August 30, 2000

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly August 30, 2000

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2000, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

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CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 1405 to, and to add and repeal Section 1417 of, the Penal Code, relating to forensic testing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1342, Burton. Forensic testing: post conviction.

Existing law authorizes the defendant in a criminal case to file a motion for a new trial upon specified grounds including, but not limited to, the discovery of new evidence that is material to the defendant, and which could not, with reasonable diligence, have been discovered and produced at the trial.

This bill would grant to a defendant who was convicted of a felony and currently serving a term of imprisonment, the right to make a written motion under specified conditions for the performance of forensic DNA testing. The bill would require that the motion include an explanation of why the applicant's identity was or should have been a significant issue in the case, how the requested DNA testing would raise a reasonable probability that the verdict or sentence would have been more favorable if the DNA testing had been available at the trial resulting in the judgment of conviction, and a reasonable attempt to identify the evidence to be tested and the type of DNA testing sought. The motion would also have to include the results of any previous DNA tests and the court would be required to order the party in possession of those results to provide access to the reports, data and notes prepared in connection with the DNA tests to all parties. The bill would also provide that the cost of DNA testing ordered under this act would be borne by either the state or by the applicant if, in the interests of justice the applicant is not indigent and possesses the ability to pay.

The bill would also require, except as otherwise specified, the appropriate governmental entity to preserve any biological material secured in connection



with a criminal case for the period of time that any person remains incarcerated in connection with that case. These provisions would remain in effect until January 1, 2003. By increasing the duties of local officials this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1405 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

1405. (a) A person who was convicted of a felony and is currently serving a term of imprisonment may make a written motion before the trial court that entered the judgment of conviction in his or her case, for performance of forensic deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) testing.

(1) The motion shall be verified by the convicted person under penalty of perjury and shall do all of the following:

(A) Explain why the identity of the perpetrator was, or should have been, a significant issue in the case.

(B) Explain in light of all the evidence, how the requested DNA testing would raise a reasonable probability that the convicted person's verdict or sentence would be more favorable if the results of DNA testing had been available at the time of conviction.

(C) Make every reasonable attempt to identify both the evidence that should be tested and the specific type of DNA testing sought.

(2) Notice of the motion shall be served on the Attorney General, the district attorney in the county of conviction, and, if known, the governmental agency or laboratory holding the evidence sought to be tested. Responses, if any, shall be filed within 60 days of the date on which the Attorney General and the district attorney are served with the motion, unless a continuance is granted.

(3) If any DNA or other biological evidence testing was conducted previously by either the prosecution or defense, the results of that testing shall be revealed in the motion for testing, if known. If evidence was subjected to



DNA or other forensic testing previously by either the prosecution or defense, the court shall order the prosecution or defense to provide all parties and the court with access to the laboratory reports, underlying data, and laboratory notes prepared in connection with the DNA testing.

(b) The court, in its discretion, may order a hearing on the motion. The motion shall be heard by the judge who conducted the trial unless the presiding judge determines that judge is unavailable. Upon request of either party, the court may order, in the interest of justice, that the convicted person be present at the hearing of the motion.

(c) The court shall appoint counsel for the convicted person who brings a motion under this section if that person is indigent.

(d) The court shall grant the motion for DNA testing if it determines all of the following have been established:

(1) The evidence to be tested is available and in a condition that would permit the DNA testing that is requested in the motion.

(2) The evidence to be tested has been subject to a chain of custody sufficient to establish it has not been substituted, tampered with, replaced or altered in any material aspect.

(3) The identity of the perpetrator of the crime was, or should have been, a significant issue in the case.

(4) The convicted person has made a prima facie showing that the evidence sought to be tested is material to the issue of the convicted person's identity as the perpetrator of, or accomplice to, the crime, special circumstance, or enhancement allegation that resulted in the conviction or sentence.

(5) The requested DNA testing results would raise a reasonable probability that, in light of all the evidence, the convicted person's verdict or sentence would have been more favorable if the results of DNA testing had been available at the time of conviction. The court in its discretion may consider any evidence whether or not it was introduced at trial.



(6) The evidence sought to be tested meets either of the following conditions:

(A) It was not tested previously.

(B) It was tested previously, but the requested DNA test would provide results that are reasonably more discriminating and probative of the identity of the perpetrator or accomplice or have a reasonable probability of contradicting prior test results.

(7) The testing requested employs a method generally accepted within the relevant scientific community.

(8) The motion is not made solely for the purpose of delay.

(e) If the court grants the motion for DNA testing, the court order shall identify the specific evidence to be tested and the DNA technology to be used. The testing shall be conducted by a laboratory mutually agreed upon by the district attorney in a noncapital case, or the Attorney General in a capital case, and the person filing the motion. If the parties cannot agree, the court's order shall designate the laboratory to conduct the testing and shall consider designating a laboratory accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB).

(f) The result of any testing ordered under this section shall be fully disclosed to the person filing the motion, the district attorney, and the Attorney General. If requested by any party, the court shall order production of the underlying laboratory data and notes.

(g) (1) The cost of DNA testing ordered under this section shall be borne by the state or the applicant, as the court may order in the interests of justice, if it is shown that the applicant is not indigent and possesses the ability to pay. However, the cost of any additional testing to be conducted by the district attorney or Attorney General shall not be borne by the convicted person.

(2) In order to pay the state's share of any testing costs, the laboratory designated in subdivision (e) shall present its bill for services to the superior court for approval and payment. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate funds for this purpose in the 2000–01 Budget Act.

(h) An order granting or denying a motion for DNA testing under this section shall not be appealable, and shall be subject to review only through petition for writ of mandate or prohibition filed by the person seeking DNA testing, the district attorney, or the Attorney General. Any such petition shall be filed within 20 days after the court's order granting or denying the motion for DNA testing. In a noncapital case, the petition for writ of mandate or prohibition shall be filed in the court of appeals. In a capital case, the petition shall be filed in the California Supreme Court. The court of appeals or California Supreme Court shall expedite its review of a petition for writ of mandate or prohibition filed under this subdivision.

(i) DNA testing ordered by the court pursuant to this section shall be done as soon as practicable. However, if the court finds that a miscarriage of justice will otherwise occur and that it is necessary in the interests of justice to give priority to the DNA testing, a DNA laboratory shall be required to give priority to the DNA testing ordered pursuant to this section over the laboratory's other pending casework.

(j) DNA profile information from biological samples taken from a convicted person pursuant to a motion for postconviction DNA testing is exempt from any law requiring disclosure of information to the public.

(k) The provisions of this section are severable. If any provision of this section or its application is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

SEC. 2. Section 1417.9 is added to the Penal Code, to read:

1417.9. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subdivision (b), the appropriate governmental entity shall retain any biological material secured in connection with a criminal case for the period of time that any person remains incarcerated in connection with that case. The governmental entity shall have the discretion to determine how the evidence is



retained pursuant to this section, provided that the evidence is retained in a condition suitable for DNA testing.

(b) A governmental entity may dispose of biological material before the expiration of the period of time described in subdivision (a) if all of the conditions set forth below are met:

(1) The governmental entity notifies all of the following persons of the provisions of this section and of the intention of the governmental entity to dispose of the material: any person, who as a result of a felony conviction in the case is currently serving a term of imprisonment and who remains incarcerated in connection with the case, any counsel of record, the public defender in the county of conviction, the district attorney in the county of conviction, and the Attorney General.

(2) The notifying entity does not receive, within 90 days of sending the notification, any of the following:

(A) A motion filed pursuant to Section 1405, however, upon filing of that application, the governmental entity shall retain the material only until the time that the court's denial of the motion is final.

(B) A request under penalty of perjury that the material not be destroyed or disposed of because the declarant will file within 180 days a motion for DNA testing pursuant to Section 1405 that is followed within 180 days by a motion for DNA testing pursuant to Section 1405, unless a request for an extension is requested by the convicted person and agreed to by the governmental entity in possession of the evidence.

(C) A declaration of innocence under penalty of perjury that has been filed with the court within 180 days of the judgment of conviction or July 1, 2001, whichever is later. However, the court shall permit the destruction of the evidence upon a showing that the declaration is false or there is no issue of identity that would be affected by additional testing. The convicted person may be cross-examined on the declaration at any hearing conducted under this section or on an application by or



on behalf of the convicted person filed pursuant to Section 1405.

(3) No other provision of law requires that biological evidence be preserved or retained.

(c) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2003, and on that date is repealed unless a later enacted statute that is enacted before January 1, 2003, deletes or extends that date.



Approved _____, 2000

Governor

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