



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Sixth Legislature, First Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR S.B. 1055

full-service crime labs; funding

Purpose

Modifies how monies in the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) Forensics Fund must be distributed and adds requirements that full-service crime laboratories must meet in order to qualify for monies.

Background

The DPS Forensics Fund (Fund) consists of monies collected from a six percent surcharge on every fine, penalty and forfeiture collected by the courts for criminal offenses and civil penalties collected from civil traffic violations of the motor vehicle statutes, as well as 25.15 percent of the monies deposited into the Criminal Justice Enhancement Fund, the first \$10.4 million collected annually from court defensive driving school fees and monies contributed to the Fund by any other source (A.R.S. §§ [12-116.01](#); [28-3396](#); and [41-2401](#)).

DPS is responsible for creating and coordinating services for use by local law enforcement agencies in protecting the public safety and for formulating plans with a view to establish modern services for prevention of crime, apprehension of violators, training of law enforcement personnel and the promotion of public safety ([A.R.S. § 41-1711](#)).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

1. Requires monies in the Fund to be distributed to all full-service crime labs in Arizona based on the percentage of the Arizona population served by each lab according to the most recent population estimate from the Office of Economic Opportunity.
2. Removes the current Fund distribution wherein 55 percent of the monies may be used by DPS for specified purposes, with the remaining 45 percent distributed proportionally to crime labs in Phoenix, Tucson, Mesa and Scottsdale.
3. Requires, rather than allows, the distribution of monies to each full-service crime lab to be determined annually and removes the requirement that crime lab directors of the political subdivisions agree on a distribution formula and allocation.
4. Modifies the definition of a *full-service crime laboratory* by requiring a full-service crime lab to:
 - a) be operated by a criminal justice agency in Arizona or a political subdivision in Arizona;

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- b) be accredited by an organization that provides accreditation based on the International Laboratory Accreditation and Cooperation G19 and standard ISO/IEC 17025 or standard ISO/IEC 1720 or any relevant field specific standards; and
 - c) provide a minimum of six prescribed forensic disciplines, one of which must be in DNA, digital forensics or drug toxicology.
5. Specifies that a full-service crime lab must have at least one full-time forensic scientist rather than regularly employed forensic scientist.
6. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

Prepared by Senate Research

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ZD/KS/sr