

HCS SB 733 -- CRIME LABORATORIES

SPONSOR: Champion (Bruns)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Crime Prevention and Public Safety by a vote of 9 to 0.

Beginning December 31, 2012, this substitute requires any crime laboratory providing reports or testimony to a state court regarding the forensic analysis of evidence to be accredited or provisionally accredited by an organization approved by the Department of Public Safety. "Crime laboratory" is defined as a laboratory operated or supported financially by the state or any unit of city, county, or other local government that employs at least one scientist who examines physical evidence in criminal matters and provides expert or opinion testimony in a state court.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011. Estimated Cost on Other State Funds of \$0 or Unknown in FY 2009, FY 2010, and FY 2011.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that other states have had evidence excluded from court proceedings due to the fact that the evidence came from unaccredited crime laboratories. The bill will ensure that no evidence could be considered unacceptable in this state due to the standards that the crime lab used.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Champion; and Bill Marbaker, State Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.