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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DNA DETECTION OF SEXUAL AND  
VIOLENT OFFENDERS

Introduced By: Representatives Kennedy, E Coderre, Chippendale, Palumbo, and  
Williams

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 12-1.5-1, 12-1.5-2, 12-1.5-4, 12-1.5-7, 12-1.5-8, 12-1.5-13, and  
2 12-1.5-17 of the General Laws in Chapter 12-1.5 entitled "DNA Detection of Sexual and Violent  
3 Offenders" are hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **12-1.5-1. Policy. [Contingent amendment; see other version]** -- The general assembly  
5 finds and declares that DNA databanks and DNA databases are important tools in criminal  
6 investigations, in the exclusion of individuals who are the subject of criminal investigations or  
7 prosecutions, and in deterring and detecting recidivism. Many states have enacted laws requiring  
8 persons arrested for or convicted of a crime of violence, or persons convicted of any felony,  
9 ~~sexual and violent offenses~~ to provide genetic samples for DNA profiling. Moreover, it is the  
10 policy of this state to assist federal, state and local criminal justice and law enforcement agencies  
11 in the identification and detection of individuals in criminal investigations. It is therefore in the  
12 best interest of the state to establish a DNA databank and a DNA database containing DNA  
13 samples and DNA records of individuals arrested for any crime of violence as defined in § 12-  
14 1.5-2, or convicted of certain sexual and violent offenses, or convicted of any felony as defined in  
15 the general laws of Rhode Island, and missing persons.

16 **12-1.5-1. Policy. [Contingent effective date; see note.]** -- The general assembly finds  
17 and declares that DNA databanks and DNA databases are important tools in criminal  
18 investigations, in the exclusion of individuals who are the subject of criminal investigations or

1 prosecutions, and in deterring and detecting recidivism. Many states have enacted laws requiring  
2 persons [arrested for or](#) convicted of [a crime of violence as defined in § 12-1.5-2](#) ~~sexual and~~  
3 ~~violent offenses~~ to provide genetic samples for DNA profiling. Moreover, it is the policy of this  
4 state to assist federal, state, and local criminal justice and law enforcement agencies in the  
5 identification and detection of individuals in criminal investigations. It is in the best interest of the  
6 state to establish a DNA databank and a DNA database containing DNA samples and DNA  
7 records of individuals [arrested for any crime of violence as defined in § 12-1.5-2 or](#) convicted of a  
8 crime of violence as defined in section 11-47-2, or convicted of any felony as defined in the  
9 general laws of Rhode Island, and missing persons.

10 **12-1.5-2. Definitions.** -- For the purposes of this chapter:

11 (1) "CODIS" is derived from combined DNA index system, the Federal Bureau of  
12 Investigation's national DNA identification index system that allows the storage and exchange of  
13 DNA records submitted by state and local forensic DNA laboratories;

14 (2) "DNA" means deoxyribonucleic acid, which is located in the cells of the body and  
15 provides an individual's personal genetic blueprint. DNA encodes genetic information that is the  
16 basis of human hereditary and forensic identification;

17 (3) "DNA record" means DNA identification information only, which is stored in the  
18 state DNA database or the combined DNA index system for the purpose of generating  
19 investigative leads or supporting statistical interpretation of DNA test results. The DNA record is  
20 the result obtained from the DNA typing tests. The DNA record is comprised of the  
21 characteristics of a DNA sample which are of value only in establishing the identity of  
22 individuals. The DNA record, however, does not include the DNA sample, and the DNA record  
23 may never include the results of tests of any structural genes. The results of all DNA  
24 identification tests on an individual's DNA sample are also collectively referred to as the DNA  
25 profile of an individual;

26 (4) "DNA sample" means a blood or tissue sample provided by any person with respect  
27 to offenses covered by this chapter, or submitted to the department of health laboratory pursuant  
28 to this chapter for DNA analysis or storage, or both;

29 (5) "F.B.I." means the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

30 (6) "State DNA databank" means the repository of DNA samples collected under this  
31 chapter, which is administered by the department of health; and

32 (7) "State DNA database" means the state-level DNA identification record system to  
33 support law enforcement which is administered by the department of health and which provides  
34 DNA records to the F.B.I. for storage and maintenance in CODIS. It is the collective capability to

1 store and maintain DNA records related to forensic casework, the DNA records of those [arrested](#)  
2 [for crimes of violence as defined in § 12-1.5-2 and/or](#) convicted offenders required to provide a  
3 DNA sample under state law, and anonymous DNA records used for research, quality control,  
4 and other DNA analysis support systems.

5 [\(8\) "Crimes of violence" include murder, manslaughter, first degree arson, kidnapping](#)  
6 [with intent to extort, robbery, larceny from the person, first degree sexual assault, second degree](#)  
7 [sexual assault, first and second degree child molestation, assault with intent to murder, assault](#)  
8 [with intent to rob, assault with intent to commit first degree sexual assault, burglary, and entering](#)  
9 [a dwelling house with intent to commit murder, robbery, sexual assault, or larceny.](#)

10 **12-1.5-4. State DNA database.** -- There is established the state DNA database. It shall be  
11 administered by the department of health and provide DNA records for the F.B.I. for storage and  
12 maintenance by CODIS. The state DNA database shall have the capability provided by computer  
13 software and procedures administered by the department of health to store and maintain DNA  
14 records related to:

15 (1) Forensic casework, including the identification of missing persons;

16 (2) [Individuals arrested for any crime of violence as defined in § 12-1.5-2 and convicted](#)  
17 ~~Convicted~~ [felony](#) offenders required to provide a DNA sample under this chapter; and

18 (3) Anonymous DNA records used for research on identification technologies or quality  
19 control.

20 **12-1.5-7. Scope and applicability. [Contingent amendment; see other version]** -- For  
21 law enforcement purposes, this chapter is applicable to adult persons [arrested for crimes of](#)  
22 [violence as defined in § 12-1.5-2 and/or](#) convicted ~~to a period of probation for any of the~~  
23 ~~following offenses: sections 11-37-2, 11-37-4, 11-37-8, 11-37-8.1, 11-37-8.3, 11-23-1 and 11-23-~~  
24 ~~3, and for~~ [of](#) any felony as defined ~~in the general laws of Rhode Island~~ [in this chapter.](#)

25 **12-1.5-7. Scope and applicability. [Contingent effective date; see note.]** -- For law  
26 enforcement purposes, this chapter is applicable to adult persons [arrested for any crime of](#)  
27 [violence as defined in § 12-1.5-2 and/or](#) convicted [of](#) or sentenced ~~to a period of probation for any~~  
28 ~~of the following offenses: sections 11-37-2, 11-37-4, 11-37-8, 11-37-8.1, 11-37-8.3, 11-23-1, and~~  
29 ~~11-23-3, for any crime of violence as defined in section 11-47-2 for offenses committed after July~~  
30 ~~1, 2001, and for any felony as defined in the general laws of Rhode Island~~ [for any felony.](#)

31 **12-1.5-8. ~~DNA sample required upon conviction~~ DNA sample required upon arrest**  
32 **or conviction for any crime of violence.** -- (a) Every person [arrested for a crime of violence as](#)  
33 [defined in § 12-1.5-2, who pleads guilty or nolo contendere, or is](#) convicted of ~~an offense as listed~~  
34 ~~in section 12-1.5-7 after June 29, 1998, any felony~~ shall have a DNA sample taken for analysis as

1 follows:

2 (1) Every person who is sentenced to a term of confinement to prison, for ~~an offense as~~  
3 ~~listed in section 12-1.5-7~~ any crime of violence as defined in § 12-1.5-2 or any felony shall not be  
4 released prior to the expiration of his or her maximum term of confinement unless and until a  
5 DNA sample has been taken;

6 (2) Every person convicted of ~~an offense or sentenced to probation as listed in section~~  
7 ~~12-1.5-7~~ any crime of violence as defined in § 12-1.5-2 or any felony or who is sentenced thereon  
8 to any term of probation, or whose case is referred to a diversion program or upon whose case  
9 sentencing is deferred shall have a DNA sample taken for analysis by the department of the health  
10 as a condition ~~for~~ of any sentence which disposition will not involve an intake into prison.

11 (b) Every person arrested for any crime of violence as defined in § 12-1.5-2 shall, at the  
12 time of booking, have a DNA sample taken for analysis and included in the Rhode Island DNA  
13 database and DNA databank respectively as required by this chapter and every such person shall  
14 be notified of his or her expungement rights under § 12-1.5-13 at or near the time the DNA  
15 sample is taken.

16 (c)~~(b)~~ All DNA samples taken pursuant to this section shall be taken in accordance with  
17 regulations promulgated by the department of health.

18 (d) The director of the department of health shall promulgate rules and regulations  
19 governing the periodic review of the DNA identification database to determine whether or not the  
20 database contains DNA profiles that should not be in the database, including the steps necessary  
21 to expunge any profiles which the department determines should not be in the database.

22 (e) The requirements of this chapter are mandatory. In the event that an arrestee's DNA  
23 sample is not adequate for any reason, the arrestee shall provide another DNA sample for  
24 analysis.

25 (f) A sample does not need to be collected if the person has previously provided a sample  
26 sufficient for DNA testing pursuant to the provisions of this section.

27 **12-1.5-13. Expungement.** -- (a) A person whose DNA record or profile has been  
28 included in the databank pursuant to this act may request expungement, on the grounds that the  
29 conviction on which authority for including that person's DNA record or profile was based, has  
30 been reversed. The department of health shall purge all records and identifiable information in the  
31 database pertaining to the person and destroy all samples from the person upon receipt of a  
32 written request for expungement pursuant to this section and a certified copy of the final court  
33 order reversing the conviction. The department of health shall purge and destroy all records and  
34 identifiable information in its database and all DNA samples taken pursuant to this chapter from

1 convicted persons upon official proof that the person has been deceased for a period of at least  
2 three (3) years. Official proof shall include, but not be limited to, a certified copy of a death  
3 certificate.

4 (b) Upon receipt of a written request for expungement from the person whose DNA  
5 record or profile has been included in the database pursuant to this chapter and notification of the  
6 underlying case not being charged through information or indictment, or voluntary dismissal by  
7 the state, or dismissal by a court, or by a not guilty verdict after trial, or upon the vacating or the  
8 reversal of a conviction in which the state does not retry the defendant or appeal the decision, or  
9 loses such appeal upon hearing, or upon any plea or conviction of a lesser offense that would not  
10 give rise to the mandatory sampling of the individual's DNA, or upon the completion of a  
11 program of diversion or the completion of the term of a sentence of deferment, or of the granting  
12 of a pardon, the record or profile shall be expunged from the state DNA identification database,  
13 regardless of any prior record for which DNA sampling would not have been authorized, except  
14 pursuant to subsection (e) herein, and such individual may apply to the court for an order  
15 directing the expungement of their DNA record and any samples, analyses, or other documents  
16 relating to the DNA testing of such individual in connection with the investigation, arrest and/or  
17 prosecution of the crime which resulted in the arrest of the person.

18 (c) A copy of the expungement motion shall be served on the attorney general and the  
19 arresting police department with ten (10) days' notice prior to hearing, and an order directing  
20 expungement shall be granted if the court finds any of the appropriate conditions of subsection  
21 (b) are satisfied; or in the case of a mistrial or dismissal of such charges by the court, that all  
22 appeals relating to the charges have been concluded; that such individual will not be retried, or if  
23 a retrial has occurred, the trier of fact has rendered a verdict of complete acquittal of the charges  
24 that gave rise to the requirement to collect the DNA sample.

25 (d) The department of health shall, by rule or regulation, prescribe procedures to ensure  
26 that the DNA record in the state DNA identification database, and any samples, analyses, or other  
27 documents relating to such record, whether in the possession of the division, or any law  
28 enforcement or police agency, or any forensic DNA laboratory, including any duplicates or  
29 copies thereof are destroyed, including any records from CODIS. The director of health shall also  
30 adopt by rule and regulation a procedure for the expungement in other appropriate circumstances  
31 of DNA records contained in the database.

32 (e) No expungement shall be granted where an individual has a prior conviction requiring  
33 a DNA sample, or a pending charge for which collection of a sample was authorized pursuant to  
34 the provisions of this chapter.

1           (f) The detention, arrest, or conviction of a person based upon a database match or  
2 database information is not invalidated if it is determined that the sample was obtained or placed  
3 in the database by mistake. Any identification, warrant, or probable cause to arrest based upon a  
4 database match is not invalidated due to a failure to expunge or a delay in expunging records.

5           ~~**12-1.5-17. Convicted persons -- Refusal to give DNA sample**~~**Bailed and convicted**  
6 **persons – Refusal to give DNA sample. --** Any person who is required to have a DNA sample  
7 taken after having been arrested and charged with any crime of violence as defined in § 12-1.5-2  
8 or convicted of any felony, who refuses to do so, and who knowingly violently resists the taking  
9 of a DNA sample duly authorized by medical personnel, shall be in violation of the terms of his  
10 or her release, regardless of whether or not the term was a special condition of his or her bail,  
11 release on probation, parole, or home confinement or other form of supervised release.

12           SECTION 2. Chapter 12-1.5 of the General Laws entitled "DNA Detection of Sexual and  
13 Violent Offenders" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

14           ~~**12-1.5-19. Limitation on liability. --**~~ Persons authorized to collect DNA samples shall  
15 not be civilly or criminally liable for the collection of a DNA sample pursuant to this chapter if  
16 they perform those duties in good faith and in a reasonable manner according to generally  
17 accepted medical or other professional practices.

18           SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2015.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

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RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- DNA DETECTION OF SEXUAL AND  
VIOLENT OFFENDERS

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1           This act would require the collection of DNA samples for any person arrested for a crime  
2 of violence as defined in this act or convicted of any felony. This act would expand the list of  
3 crimes for which a DNA sample is required. The samples would be included in the Rhode Island  
4 DNA database to be administered by the FBI's national DNA identification index system, which  
5 allows for the storage and exchange of DNA records submitted by state and local forensic DNA  
6 laboratories for the identification and/or exclusion of individuals who are the subject of criminal  
7 investigations or prosecutions.

8           This act would take effect on January 1, 2015.

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