

House Bill 3206

Sponsored by Representatives WILLIAMSON, LININGER; Representative BARKER, Senator PROZANSKI

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Permits any person convicted of offense with relevant DNA evidence to file motion for DNA testing.

Changes requirements for prima facie showing and standard for court to order DNA testing. Requires court to state reasons on record for denial of motion for DNA testing.

Provides that person filing motion for DNA testing is entitled to counsel at all stages of proceedings concerning DNA testing.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to DNA testing for certain convicted persons; amending ORS 138.690, 138.692, 138.694,
3 138.696 and 138.697.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 138.690 is amended to read:

6 138.690. A person may file in the circuit court in which the judgment of conviction was entered
7 a motion requesting the performance of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) testing on [*specific*] evidence
8 if the person[:]

9 [*(1) Is incarcerated in a Department of Corrections institution as the result of a conviction for*] **has**
10 **been convicted of** aggravated murder or a person felony as defined in the rules of the Oregon
11 Criminal Justice Commission[; *or*]

12 [*(2) Is not in custody but has been convicted of aggravated murder, murder or a sex crime as de-*
13 *fined in ORS 181.805.*], **or has been convicted of any other crime in which DNA evidence exists**
14 **and is relevant to establishing an element of the offense.**

15 **SECTION 2.** ORS 138.692 is amended to read:

16 138.692. (1)(a) When a person files a motion under ORS 138.690 requesting the performance of
17 DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) testing on [*specified*] evidence, the motion must be supported by an
18 affidavit. The affidavit must:

19 [(A)(i)] **(A)** [*For a person described in ORS 138.690 (1),*] Contain a statement that the person is
20 innocent of the offense for which the person was convicted or of the conduct underlying any man-
21 datory sentence enhancement; [*or*]

22 [(ii) *For a person described in ORS 138.690 (2), contain a statement that the person is innocent of*
23 *the offense for which the person was convicted;*]

24 (B) Identify the [*specific*] evidence to be tested and a theory of defense that the DNA testing
25 would support. The [*specific*] evidence must have been secured in connection with the prosecution,
26 including the investigation, that resulted in the conviction of the person; and

27 (C) Include the results of any previous DNA test of the evidence if a previous DNA test was
28 conducted by either the prosecution or the defense.

29 (b) The person must present a prima facie showing that DNA testing of the [*specified*] evidence

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 would, assuming exculpatory results, [*establish the actual innocence of the person of:*]

2 [(A) *The offense for which the person was convicted; or*]

3 [(B) *Conduct, if the exoneration of the person of the conduct would result in a mandatory reduction*
 4 *in the person's sentence*] **lead to a finding that the person would not have been convicted or**
 5 **would have received a lesser sentence if the DNA test results had been admitted at trial.**

6 (2) The court shall order the DNA testing requested in a motion under subsection (1) of this
 7 section if the court finds that:

8 (a) The requirements of subsection (1) of this section have been met;

9 (b) Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, the evidence to be tested [*is in the possession of a city,*
 10 *county, state or the court and*] has been subject to a chain of custody sufficient to establish that the
 11 evidence has not been altered in any material aspect;

12 (c) The motion is made [*in a timely manner and*] for the purpose of demonstrating the innocence
 13 of the person of the offense or of the conduct and not to delay the execution of the sentence or
 14 administration of justice; and

15 (d) There is a reasonable possibility that the testing will produce exculpatory evidence that
 16 would [*establish the innocence of the person of:*]

17 [(A) *The offense for which the person was convicted; or*]

18 [(B) *Conduct, if the exoneration of the person of the conduct would result in a mandatory reduction*
 19 *in the person's sentence*] **lead to a finding that the person would not have been convicted or**
 20 **would have received a lesser sentence if the DNA test results had been admitted at trial.**

21 (3) In granting a motion under this section, the court may impose reasonable conditions designed
 22 to protect the interests of the state in the integrity of the evidence and the testing process.

23 [(4) *Unless both parties agree otherwise, the court shall order the Department of State Police to*
 24 *conduct the DNA testing. The court may order a second test upon a showing that the state police failed*
 25 *to follow appropriate DNA protocols and that failure reasonably affected the accuracy of the DNA*
 26 *test.*]

27 **(4)(a) If both parties agree, or if the court finds good cause, the court shall order the**
 28 **evidence to be tested in a laboratory that is accredited by the American Society of Crime**
 29 **Laboratory Directors Laboratory Accreditation Board or a laboratory that has a certificate**
 30 **of compliance with the national standards issued pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 14131 from Forensic**
 31 **Quality Services.**

32 **(b) If both parties do not agree or the court does not find good cause as described in**
 33 **paragraph (a) of this subsection, the court shall order the Department of State Police to**
 34 **conduct the DNA testing.**

35 (5) The costs of DNA tests ordered under this section must be paid by:

36 (a) The person making the motion for DNA testing if the person is not incarcerated or, if the
 37 person is incarcerated, if the person is financially able to pay; or

38 (b) The state if counsel at state expense has been appointed under ORS 138.694.

39 (6) The [*results of a DNA test ordered under this section must be disclosed*] **laboratory con-**
 40 **ducting the DNA test shall provide a copy of the results of the test** to the person filing the
 41 motion and to the state.

42 (7) Notwithstanding the fact that an appeal of the conviction or a petition for post-conviction
 43 relief in the underlying case is pending at the time a motion is filed under ORS 138.690, the circuit
 44 court shall consider the motion. If the court grants the motion, the court shall notify the court
 45 considering the appeal or post-conviction petition of that fact. When a court receives notice under

1 this subsection, the court shall stay the appeal or post-conviction proceedings pending the outcome
 2 of the motion filed under ORS 138.690 and any further proceedings resulting from the motion.

3 **(8) If the court denies a motion under this section, the court shall state on the record**
 4 **the reasons for the denial.**

5 **SECTION 3.** ORS 138.694 is amended to read:

6 138.694. (1) **A person described in ORS 138.690 is entitled to counsel during all stages of**
 7 **the proceedings described in ORS 138.692, 138.696 and 138.697.**

8 [(1)] (2) A person described in ORS 138.690 [(1)] may file a petition in the circuit court in which
 9 the judgment of conviction was entered requesting the appointment of counsel at state expense to
 10 assist the person in determining whether to file a motion under ORS 138.690. The petition must be
 11 accompanied by:

12 (a) A completed affidavit of eligibility for appointment of counsel at state expense; and

13 (b) An affidavit stating that:

14 (A) The person meets the criteria in ORS 138.690 [(1)];

15 (B) The person is innocent of the charge for which the person was convicted or of the conduct
 16 that resulted in a mandatory sentence enhancement; **and**

17 [(C) *The identity of the perpetrator of the crime or conduct was at issue in the original prosecution*
 18 *or, if the person was documented as having mental retardation prior to the time the crime was com-*
 19 *mitted, should have been at issue; and]*

20 [(D)] (C) The person is without sufficient funds and assets, as shown by the affidavit required
 21 by paragraph (a) of this subsection, to hire an attorney to represent the person in determining
 22 whether to file a motion under ORS 138.690.

23 [(2)] (3) The court shall grant a petition filed under this section if:

24 (a) The petitioner complies with the requirements of subsection [(1)] (2) of this section; and

25 (b) It appears to the court that the petitioner is financially unable to employ suitable counsel
 26 [*possessing skills and experience commensurate with the nature and complexity of the matter*].

27 [(3) *When a court grants a petition under this section, the court shall appoint the attorney ori-*
 28 *ginally appointed to represent the petitioner in the action that resulted in the conviction unless the at-*
 29 *torney is unavailable.*]

30 (4) An attorney appointed under this section:

31 (a) If other than counsel provided pursuant to ORS 151.460, is entitled to compensation and ex-
 32 penses as provided in ORS 135.055; or

33 (b) If counsel provided pursuant to ORS 151.460, is entitled to expenses as provided in ORS
 34 135.055.

35 **SECTION 4.** ORS 138.696 is amended to read:

36 138.696. (1) If DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) testing ordered under ORS 138.692 produces incon-
 37 clusive evidence or evidence that is unfavorable to the person requesting the testing:

38 (a) The court shall forward the results to the State Board of Parole and Post-Prison Supervision;
 39 and

40 (b) The Department of State Police shall compare the evidence to DNA evidence from unsolved
 41 crimes in the Combined DNA Index System.

42 (2) If DNA testing ordered under ORS 138.692 produces exculpatory evidence, the person who
 43 requested the testing may file in the court that ordered the testing a motion for a new trial based
 44 on newly discovered evidence. Notwithstanding the time limit established in ORCP 64 F, a person
 45 may file a motion under this subsection at any time during the 60-day period that begins on the date

1 the person receives the test results.

2 (3) Upon receipt of a motion filed under subsection (2) of this section and notwithstanding the
3 time limits in ORCP 64 F, the court shall [*hear the motion*] **conduct a hearing**.

4 **SECTION 5.** ORS 138.697 is amended to read:

5 138.697. (1) A person described in ORS 138.690 may appeal to the Court of Appeals from a circuit
6 court's final order or judgment denying or limiting DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) testing under ORS
7 138.692, denying appointment of counsel under ORS 138.694 or denying a motion for a new trial
8 under ORS 138.696.

9 (2) The state may appeal to the Court of Appeals from a circuit court's final order or judgment
10 granting a motion for DNA testing under ORS 138.692 or granting a motion for a new trial under
11 ORS 138.696.

12 (3) The time limits described in ORS 138.071, the notice requirements described in ORS 138.081
13 and 138.090 and the provisions of ORS 138.225, 138.227, 138.240, 138.250[,] **and** 138.255 [*and 138.261*]
14 apply to appeals under this section unless the context requires otherwise.

15 (4) A circuit court shall appoint counsel to represent a person described in ORS 138.690 on ap-
16 peal in the same manner as for criminal defendants under ORS 138.500.

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