

**SB 1571**

**Relating to sexual assault forensic evidence kits**

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On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Public Safety Subcommittee voted to recommend passage of SB 1571, with amendments.

The measure requires the Oregon State Police to adopt rules for processing untested sexual assault forensic evidence kits, and to test these kits. It exempts testing of anonymous kits. By July 1st, 2019, the agency will report to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on its progress toward entering test results into the Combined DNA Index System, CODIS.

The measure also requires every law enforcement agency in Oregon to have procedures for the collecting, testing, retaining, or destroying sexual assault forensic evidence kits. All kits, including anonymous kits, must be held for no fewer than 60 years. Additionally, each law enforcement agency must adopt procedures for providing information to victims about sexual assault forensic evidence kits, and ensure that a single person is designated within each agency to receive telephone inquiries about kits and to serve as a liaison to the Department of State Police. The amendment appropriates \$1.5 million of General Fund to add nine positions in the DNA and Biology sections of the State Police Forensic Labs to improve timely processing of kits.

Finally, the measure creates a Task Force on the Testing of Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Kits, which must submit a report with recommendations for legislation by December 1, 2018. The task force sunsets on June 30th, 2019.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends SB 1571 be amended by the -A6 amendment and be reported out do pass, as amended.