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SENATE BILL NO. 619

Offered January 24, 2000

A BILL to amend and reenact § 19.2-310.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to DNA data bank exchange.

Patrons—Houck; Delegates: Dickinson and Orrock

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 19.2-310.5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 19.2-310.5. DNA data bank exchange.

It shall be the duty of the Division to receive blood, saliva or tissue samples and to analyze, classify, and file the results of DNA identification characteristics profiles of blood, saliva or tissue samples submitted pursuant to § 19.2-310.2 and to make such information available as provided in this section. The results of an analysis and comparison of the identification characteristics from two or more blood, saliva or tissue samples shall be made available directly to federal, state and local law-enforcement officers upon request made in furtherance of an official investigation of any criminal offense. *The Division shall confirm whether or not there is a DNA profile on file for a specific individual if a federal, state or local law-enforcement officer requests that information in furtherance of an official investigation of any criminal offense.* A request may be made by personal contact, mail, or electronic means. The name of the requestor and the purpose for which the information is requested shall be maintained on file with the Division.

Upon his request, a copy of the request for search shall be furnished to any person identified and charged with an offense as the result of a search of information in the data bank. Only when a sample or DNA profile supplied by the requestor satisfactorily matches a profile in the data bank shall the existence of data in the data bank be confirmed or identifying information from the data bank be disseminated.

The Division shall adopt regulations governing (i) the methods of obtaining information from the data bank in accordance with this section and (ii) procedures for verification of the identity and authority of the requestor. The Division shall specify the positions in that agency which require regular access to the data bank and samples submitted as a necessary function of the job.

The Division shall create a separate statistical data base comprised of DNA profiles of blood, saliva or tissue samples of persons whose identity is unknown. Nothing in this section or § 19.2-310.6 shall prohibit the Division from sharing or otherwise disseminating the information in the statistical data base with law-enforcement or criminal justice agencies within or without the Commonwealth.

The Division may charge a reasonable fee to search and provide a comparative analysis of DNA profiles in the data bank to any authorized law-enforcement agency outside of the Commonwealth.

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