

AB 1079 Crime Laboratory Review Task Force: Legislative Mandates

Crime Lab Organization & Management

- Will California's future needs be met by existing mix of state & local labs?
- Should labs be consolidated? Oversight?
- Transfer of management responsibilities (some labs)?
- Should all labs provide "similar" services?
- Other states' approaches

Crime Lab Staff & Training

- Recruiting & retention
- Adequate education / training?
- Continuing education available?
- Individual certification of criminalists? If so, what agency responsible?
- Role of U.C. / C.S.U.?

Crime Lab Funding

- Is current funding adequate, predictable, and stable enough to meet future growth demands and accurate/timely results?
- Salaries: How to attract and retain competent criminalists

Crime Lab Performance Standards; Equipment

- Properly prioritized workload demands?
- Important workload issues not being addressed?
- Do labs have the necessary capabilities, staffing, and equipment?
- Statewide accreditation standards, including minimum staffing levels? If so, what sanctioning body?

A final report must be submitted to the Department of Finance and the Legislature by July 1, 2009. It must include a "complete inventory of California crime laboratories." The inventory must detail "staffing, workload, budget, major instrumentation, and organizational placement within the controlling agency."