



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2998

Introduced 1/27/2026, by Sen. Laura Ellman

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2605/2605-615

Amends the Illinois State Police Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois. Requires all State and local publicly funded ISO 17025 accredited forensic laboratory systems to report all complaints received alleging significant non-conformity with efficient delivery of forensic services and the sound practice of forensic science to the Illinois Forensic Science Commission within 30 days of becoming aware of the alleged significant non-conformity or deficient method. Specifies that the report of complaints alleging significant non-conformity or deficient method shall include the nature and extent of the non-conformity or deficient method alleged and whether any corrective actions were or will be implemented to address the alleged non-conformity or deficient method. Provides that all annual reports summarizing the forensic laboratory systems' significant non-conformities to the Illinois Forensic Science Commission shall include the information required to be reported under the amendatory Act.

LRB104 18735 TRT 32178 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Illinois State Police Law of the Civil  
5 Administrative Code of Illinois is amended by changing Section  
6 2605-615 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 2605/2605-615)

8 Sec. 2605-615. Illinois Forensic Science Commission.

9 (a) Creation. There is created within the Illinois State  
10 Police the Illinois Forensic Science Commission.

11 (b) Duties and purpose. The Commission shall:

12 (1) Provide guidance to ensure the efficient delivery  
13 of forensic services and the sound practice of forensic  
14 science.

15 (2) Provide a forum for discussions between forensic  
16 science stakeholders to improve communication and  
17 coordination and to monitor the important issues impacting  
18 all stakeholders.

19 (3) Take a systems-based approach in reviewing all  
20 aspects of the delivery of forensic services and the sound  
21 practice of forensic science with the goal of reducing or  
22 eliminating the factors and inefficiencies that contribute  
23 to backlogs and errors, with a focus on education and

1 training, funding, hiring, procurement, and other aspects  
2 identified by the Commission.

3 (4) Review significant non-conformities with the sound  
4 practice of forensic science documented by each publicly  
5 funded ISO 17025 accredited forensic laboratory and offer  
6 recommendations for the correction thereof.

7 (5) Subject to appropriation, provide educational,  
8 research, and professional training opportunities for  
9 practicing forensic scientists, police officers, judges,  
10 State's Attorneys and Assistant State's Attorneys, Public  
11 Defenders, and defense attorneys comporting with the sound  
12 practice of forensic science.

13 (6) Collect and analyze information related to the  
14 impact of current laws, rules, policies, and practices on  
15 forensic crime laboratories and the practice of forensic  
16 science; evaluate the impact of those laws, rules,  
17 policies, and practices on forensic crime laboratories and  
18 the practice of forensic science; identify new policies  
19 and approaches, together with changes in science, and  
20 technology; and make recommendations for changes to those  
21 laws, rules, policies, and practices that will yield  
22 better results in the criminal justice system consistent  
23 with the sound practice of forensic science.

24 (7) Perform such other studies or tasks pertaining to  
25 forensic crime laboratories as may be requested by the  
26 General Assembly by resolution or the Governor, and

1 perform such other functions as may be required by law or  
2 as are necessary to carry out the purposes and goals of the  
3 Commission prescribed in this Section.

4 (8) Ensure that adequate resources and facilities are  
5 available for carrying out the changes proposed in  
6 legislation, rules, or policies and that rational  
7 priorities are established for the use of those resources.  
8 To do so, the Commission may prepare statements to the  
9 Governor and General Assembly identifying the fiscal and  
10 practical effects of proposed legislation, rules, or  
11 policy changes. Such statements may include, but are not  
12 limited to: the impact on present levels of staffing and  
13 resources; a professional opinion on the practical value  
14 of the change or changes; the increase or decrease the  
15 number of crime laboratories; the increase or decrease the  
16 cost of operating crime laboratories; the impact on  
17 efficiencies and caseloads; other information, including  
18 but not limited to, facts, data, research, and science  
19 relevant to the legislation, rule, or policy; the direct  
20 or indirect alteration in any process involving or used by  
21 crime laboratories of such proposed legislation, rules, or  
22 policy changes; an analysis of the impact, either directly  
23 or indirectly, on the technology, improvements, or  
24 practices of forensic analyses for use in criminal  
25 proceedings; together with the direct or indirect impact  
26 on headcount, space, equipment, instruments,

1 accreditation, the volume of cases for analysis,  
2 scientific controls, and quality assurance.

3 (c) Members. The Commission shall be composed of the  
4 Director of the Illinois State Police, or his or her designee,  
5 together with the following members appointed for a term of 4  
6 years by the Governor with the advice and consent of the  
7 Senate:

8 (1) One crime laboratory director or administrator  
9 from each publicly funded ISO 17025 accredited forensic  
10 laboratory system.

11 (2) One member with experience in the admission of  
12 forensic evidence in trials from a statewide association  
13 representing prosecutors.

14 (3) One member with experience in the admission of  
15 forensic evidence in trials from a statewide association  
16 representing criminal defense attorneys.

17 (4) Three forensic scientists with bench work  
18 background from various forensic disciplines (e.g., DNA,  
19 chemistry, pattern evidence, etc.).

20 (5) One retired circuit court judge or associate  
21 circuit court judge with criminal trial experience,  
22 including experience in the admission of forensic evidence  
23 in trials.

24 (6) One academic specializing in the field of forensic  
25 sciences.

26 (7) One or more community representatives (e.g.,

1 victim advocates, innocence project organizations, sexual  
2 assault examiners, etc.).

3 (8) One member who is a medical examiner or coroner.

4 The Governor shall designate one of the members of the  
5 Commission to serve as the chair of the Commission. Beginning  
6 January 1, 2026, the Governor shall designate the chair of the  
7 Commission for a 2-year term. The members of the Commission  
8 shall elect from their number such other officers as they may  
9 determine. Members of the Commission shall serve without  
10 compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses  
11 incurred in the performance of their duties from funds  
12 appropriated for that purpose.

13 (d) Subcommittees. The Commission may form subcommittees  
14 to study specific issues identified under paragraph (3) of  
15 subsection (b), including, but not limited to, subcommittees  
16 on education and training, procurement, funding and hiring. Ad  
17 hoc subcommittees may also be convened to address other  
18 issues. Such subcommittees shall meet as needed to complete  
19 their work, and shall report their findings back to the  
20 Commission. Subcommittees shall include members of the  
21 Commission, and may also include non-members such as forensic  
22 science stakeholders and subject matter experts.

23 (e) Meetings. The Commission shall meet quarterly, at the  
24 call of the chairperson. Facilities for meeting, whether  
25 remotely or in person, shall be provided for the Commission by  
26 the Illinois State Police.

1       (e-5) Complaint reporting by publicly funded ISO 17025  
2 accredited forensic laboratories. All State and local publicly  
3 funded ISO 17025 accredited forensic laboratory systems,  
4 including, but not limited to, the DuPage County Forensic  
5 Science Center, the Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime  
6 Laboratory, and the Illinois State Police, shall report to the  
7 Commission any complaint received that alleges a significant  
8 non-conformity with the efficient delivery of forensic  
9 services and the sound practice of forensic science within 30  
10 days of becoming aware of the alleged significant  
11 non-conformity or deficient method. A report under this  
12 subsection shall include the nature and extent of the  
13 non-conformity or deficient method alleged and whether any  
14 corrective actions have been implemented or will be  
15 implemented to address the alleged non-conformity or deficient  
16 method.

17       (f) Annual reporting ~~Reporting~~ by publicly funded ISO  
18 17025 accredited forensic laboratories. All State and local  
19 publicly funded ISO 17025 accredited forensic laboratory  
20 systems, including, but not limited to, the DuPage County  
21 Forensic Science Center, the Northeastern Illinois Regional  
22 Crime Laboratory, and the Illinois State Police, shall  
23 annually provide to the Commission a report summarizing its  
24 significant non-conformities with the efficient delivery of  
25 forensic services and the sound practice of forensic science.  
26 The report will identify: each significant non-conformity or

1 deficient method; how the non-conformity or deficient method  
2 was detected; the nature and extent of the non-conformity or  
3 deficient method; all corrective actions implemented to  
4 address the non-conformity or deficient method; and an  
5 analysis of the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken.  
6 The report shall include all complaints reported to the  
7 Commission under subsection (e-5) of this Section.

8 (g) Definition. As used in this Section, "Commission"  
9 means the Illinois Forensic Science Commission.

10 (Source: P.A. 103-34, eff. 1-1-24; 103-609, eff. 7-1-24;  
11 104-24, eff. 1-1-26.)