

COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill: House Bill 1274

Printer's No.: 1637

Sponsor: Rep. Farry

Prepared by: Gregg Warner

Synopsis: This bill amends the provisions of the Judicial Code, Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, relating to criminal laboratory fees.

Summary: Section 1725.3 is amended to provide that any county or State Police criminal laboratory which provides laboratory services for the prosecution may submit the costs of the services to the court where the prosecution occurred to be assessed against the defendant. Laboratory service fees collected are to be paid to the county performing the services, or the State Police where applicable, to be used for the operation and maintenance of the criminal laboratory.

Effective date

This act takes effect in 60 days.

Background: The House of Representatives passed House Bill 1274 on June 19, 2013 by a vote of 198 to 0.

Currently the law only applies to fees for services provided by laboratories operated in counties of the first class, counties of the second class and the State Police. House Bill 1274 allows for a fee assessment or reimbursement to other counties performing criminal laboratory services.

Legislative history

Last session this legislation was introduced as House Bill 1769. The House of Representatives passed House Bill 1769 by a vote of 194 to 0. The Senate Judiciary Committee reported House Bill 1769 from committee but the Senate tabled the bill at the end of the session.