

KANSAS OFFICE *of*
REVISOR *of* STATUTES

LEGISLATURE *of* THE STATE *of* KANSAS
Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.

300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
From: Jason Thompson, Senior Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 19, 2019
Subject: Bill Brief for SB 102

Senate Bill 102 creates the Kansas closed case task force, pertaining to identification and investigation of hits to the combined DNA index system (CODIS) in closed cases.

As described in the first Whereas clause of the bill, “law enforcement agencies routinely submit biological evidence to forensic laboratories for DNA testing, prompting laboratories to report back to submitting law enforcement agencies the results of the requested testing and any match made to the combined DNA index system (CODIS).” The purpose of the bill, as described in the final Whereas clause, is to establish “a task force dedicated to creating and assuring the implementation of a plan to achieve uniform protocols for law enforcement agencies, forensic laboratories and prosecutors’ offices for the handling of CODIS hits reported out to submitting law enforcement agencies by forensic laboratories to ensure that all CODIS hits are reported to appropriate parties, accounted for and, where appropriate, investigated.”

The bill establishes the Kansas closed case task force to be composed of 14 voting members listed in subsection (a). Subsection (b) requires the initial meeting of the task force to be convened on or before October 1, 2019, and provides that the chairpersons of Senate Judiciary and House Judiciary will serve as co-chairs of the task force. Subsection (c) outlines five topics for the task force to examine, in consultation with practitioners and experts, and requires the task force to develop a plan to ensure uniform statewide policies and procedures that address each topic. Subsection (d) requires the task force to complete the plan by October 1, 2020, and submit a report containing the plan by December 1, 2020. The report shall be posted on the Kansas Bureau of Investigation’s website and presented to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate. The task force statute would expire on December 30, 2020.