

# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION



## Funding for Rapid DNA Systems in County Jails

Under Florida law, certain offenders, including offenders who are arrested for a felony, or an attempted felony are required to submit DNA samples when they are booked into a jail, correctional facility, or juvenile facility. DNA testing on arrestees can take weeks or months to process due to the nature of the testing and the backlog of submissions the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) is currently experiencing.

The FBI recently provided the FDLE with permission to submit Rapid DNA from a jail setting (i.e., booking stations). Rapid DNA is DNA that is taken via a cheek swab, tested by a machine, and automatically uploaded to the FBI's Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database. Rapid DNA can be developed within 1-2 hours and without the need for a DNA laboratory or any human intervention or review. The use of Rapid DNA technology in jails will allow law enforcement to test a qualifying offender's DNA and determine whether the person's DNA is a match to any unsolved crimes while the person is still in custody.

This funding request seeks an appropriation from the state budget for an initial pilot program to purchase Rapid DNA machines for use in eleven jails in Florida. Additionally, HB 1105 and SB 1140 would create a Rapid DNA Grant Program within the FDLE to award grants to county jails or sheriffs' offices to support local law enforcement agencies purchase Rapid DNA machines and testing supplies in the future. These funds will be an important step towards solving unsolved crimes and ensuring that dangerous repeat criminals are not released back out onto our streets.

**Support Form 2033 by Rep. Garrison and Form 2102 by Sen. Ingolia**

**Support HB 1105 by Rep. Temple and SB 1140 by Sen. Ingolia**



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