

Department of Public Safety

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House Bill 62 SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS/TRACKING Sectional Analysis – Version 34-GH1317\A

Section 1

Amends AS 12.61.010 Rights of crime victims, subsection (a) to add paragraph (16) to include the right to be notified of location and testing date of a sexual assault examination kit that is collected from the victim.

Section 2

Amends AS 44.41.065 Sexual examination kits subsection (a) to require that within 14 days after gathering the evidence, health care providers shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency that the sexual assault examination kit is available to be sent to an accredited laboratory in coordination with the Department of Public Safety. Previously this section was only applicable to law enforcement agencies.

Requires that a law enforcement agency must send the kit identified by the health care provider in the scenario above must send the sexual assault examination kit to an accredited laboratory in coordination with the Department of Public Safety.

Requires that within 120 days of when a sexual examination kit is received by the laboratory to which it is sent, the sexual assault examination kit must be tested within 120 days.

Clarifies that if the case is resolved before the sexual assault examination kit is tested, then the health care provider, law enforcement agency, or laboratory in possession of the sexual assault examination kit is not required to meet the time limits established in (a) of this section.

Section 3

Amends AS 44.41.065 Sexual examination kits to add subsection (e), which clarifies that the sexual assault examination kit information must be entered into the tracking system established by the Department of Public Safety.

Section 4

Amends AS 44.41 Department of Public Safety to add a new section, AS 44.41.067 Sexual assault examination kit tracking system.

Requires the Department of Public Safety to develop and operate a sexual assault examination tracking system to track status and location of a sexual assault examination kit from the point of evidence collection to testing.

Requires that the sexual assault examination kit tracking system allow the victim to access and, if the victim chooses, to receive automated notifications of the status of the kit and when a kit has been tested.

Establishes the sexual assault examination kit tracking system as confidential and not subject to public records, except that the Department of Public Safety may use the information to provide the report required by AS 44.41.070 Report on untested sexual assault examination kits.

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Section 5

Repeals AS 44.41.070 Report on untested sexual assault examination kits subsection (a).

Section 6

Adds uncodified law to allow the Department of Public Safety to establish regulations.

Section 7

Provides an immediate effective date for Section 6 of the bill.