Page 5, strike lines 1 and 2.

Page 5, line 5, before "STANDARD" insert "LABORATORY".

HOUSE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE REPORT

Chair of Com	ımittee	March 26, 2025 Date
Committee on <u>Judiciary</u> .		
After consideration on the merits, the Committee recommends the following:		
HB25-1275	be amended as follows, and as so the Committee on <u>Appropr</u> recommendation:	
Amend printed bill, page 4, line 1, strike "LIBERALLY CONSTRUED" and substitute "INTERPRETED".		
Page 4, line 8, after the period add ""CRIME LABORATORY" DOES NOT INCLUDE A LABORATORY OPERATED BY A COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE.".		
Page 4, after line 14 insert: "(4) "Final report" means the final report prepared by a crime laboratory director following an investigation of alleged wrongful action, described in section 16-12-305 (4)(c).".		
Renumber succeeding subsections accordingly.		
Page 4, line 24, strike "AND DECEPTIVE. "KNOWING" and substitute "OR DECEPTIVE, AND WHICH ACT OR OMISSION OR SERIES OF ACTS OR OMISSIONS INVOLVE: (a) THE MISHANDLING OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OR DATA ELEMENTS OR RESULTS; (b) INCORRECTLY PERFORMING FORENSIC TESTING; (c) PRESENTING MISLEADING OR FALSE RESULTS; (d) CONCEALING MATERIAL INFORMATION; OR (e) PRESENTING FALSE SWORN TESTIMONY ABOUT THE EVIDENCE.".		
Page 4, strike lines 25 through 27.		

- 1 Page 5, line 17, strike "FOURTEEN" and substitute "SEVEN".
- 2 Page 6, line 7, strike "(a)".
- Page 6, line 12, after "SHALL" insert "FORTHWITH" and strike "THE".
- 4 Page 6, strike lines 13 through 27.
- 5 Strike page 7.
- 6 Page 8, strike lines 1 through 9.
- 7 Page 8, line 10, strike "(a)".
- 8 Page 8, line 13, strike "(I)" and substitute "(a)".
- 9 Page 8, line 15, strike "(II)" and substitute "(b)".
- Page 8, line 16, strike "(III)" and substitute "(c)".
- Page 8, line 19, strike "(IV)" and substitute "(d)".
- 12 Page 8, line 22, strike "AND".
- Page 8, line 23, strike "(V)" and substitute "(e)".
- Page 8, strike lines 24 through 27 and substitute "OCCURRED; AND
- 15 (f) IDENTIFYING AND COMPILING A LIST OF ALL CASES THAT THE
- 16 CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE WORKED ON IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY AT
- 17 THE CRIME LABORATORY. THE INVESTIGATION NEED NOT INCLUDE A
- 18 REVIEW OF THE CASE WORK ON ANY CASE INCLUDED ON THE LIST UNLESS
- 19 THE CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTOR DETERMINES THAT A REVIEW IS
- WARRANTED.
- 21 (3) (a) When an investigation is of alleged wrongful
- 22 ACTION IN A PENDING CASE, THE CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTOR SHALL,
- 23 WITHIN SEVEN DAYS OF BEGINNING THE INVESTIGATION, NOTIFY THE
- 24 DISTRICT ATTORNEY WITH JURISDICTION OVER EACH PENDING CRIMINAL
- 25 CASE THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE INVESTIGATION ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION.
- 26 (b) The notice to the district attorney must include:
- 27 (I) THE NAME OF THE CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE;
- 28 (II) THE NATURE OF THE ALLEGATION; AND
- 29 (III) A LIST OF THE CASES IDENTIFIED IN THE INITIAL

INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION IN WHICH THERE IS AN ALLEGED WRONGFUL ACTION OR THAT ARE BEING REVIEWED AS PART OF INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGED WRONGFUL ACTION.

- (4) (a) WITHIN NINETY-ONE DAYS OF THE REPORT OF WRONGFUL ACTION TO THE CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTOR, THE DIRECTOR SHALL COMPLETE THE INVESTIGATION OF A WRONGFUL ACTION AND DETERMINE WHETHER WRONGFUL ACTION OCCURRED IN A CASE IDENTIFIED IN THE INITIAL INVESTIGATION NOTICE TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY MADE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION.
- (b) (I) IF THE INVESTIGATION CANNOT BE COMPLETED WITHIN NINETY-ONE DAYS, THE CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTOR SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE OF THE INVESTIGATION TO EACH DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO HAS JURISDICTION OVER ANY CASE THE CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE WORKED ON IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY, INCLUDING CASES SUBJECT TO THE NOTICE REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (3)(a) OF THIS SECTION.
- (II) THE NOTICE TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABOUT AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION MADE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION MUST INCLUDE:
 - (A) THE NAME OF THE CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE;
 - (B) THE NATURE OF THE ALLEGATION;
- (C) A WRITTEN UPDATE THAT ADDRESSES THE STATE OF THE INVESTIGATION, THE REASON FOR THE DELAY, AND THE ANTICIPATED TIMELINE FOR COMPLETING THE INVESTIGATION; AND
- (D) The list of cases described in subsection (2)(f) of this section.
- (III) AFTER NOTIFYING A DISTRICT ATTORNEY ABOUT AN ONGOING INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION, THE CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTOR SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN UPDATES ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE INVESTIGATION TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY AT LEAST EVERY THIRTY-FIVE DAYS THEREAFTER UNTIL THE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETE.
- (c) At the conclusion of the investigation, the crime laboratory director shall prepare a written final report describing the investigation and determinations on the cases in which there is an alleged wrongful action by a crime laboratory employee. If the investigation determines that the crime laboratory employee engaged in wrongful action, the final report must include the list of cases described in subsection (2)(f) of this section and the release of the final report is governed by section 24-72-303 (4)(a.5).
- (5) (a) If the investigation determines that the crime Laboratory employee did not engage in wrongful action, no further action is required by the crime Laboratory director;

EXCEPT THAT:

(I) THE DIRECTOR SHALL DELIVER FORTHWITH THE FINAL REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION TO EACH DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO RECEIVED A NOTICE OF THE INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (3) AND (4) OF THIS SECTION; AND

- (II) THE DIRECTOR SHALL DELIVER FORTHWITH THE FINAL REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION TO EACH DISTRICT ATTORNEY WITH JURISDICTION OVER ANY CASE THAT WAS SUBJECT TO INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.
- (b) If the investigation determines that the crime Laboratory employee engaged in wrongful action, the crime Laboratory director shall:
- (I) DELIVER FORTHWITH THE FINAL REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION, WHICH INCLUDES THE LIST OF CASES DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (2)(f) OF THIS SECTION, TO EACH DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO HAS JURISDICTION OVER ANY CASE THAT THE CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE WORKED ON IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY; AND
- (II) PROVIDE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ALL MATERIALS DISCOVERABLE BY THE DEFENDANT PURSUANT TO SECTION 16-12-309 ON A TIMELY AND ONGOING BASIS THROUGH THE CONCLUSION OF POST-CONVICTION PROCEEDINGS. THE DIRECTOR SHALL RESPOND TO ANY REQUESTS FOR DISCOVERABLE MATERIAL FROM THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY BY PROVIDING THE REQUESTED MATERIALS OR BY RESPONDING IN WRITING WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE REQUEST THAT THE REQUESTED MATERIALS DO NOT EXIST.
- (6) A CRIME LABORATORY MUST ADOPT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING:
- (a) Procedures needed to comply with the mandates of this article $12;\ \mbox{and}$
- (b) THE PRESERVATION OF RECORDS RELATED TO WRONGFUL ACTION REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTOR AND THE DIRECTOR'S INVESTIGATION AND INVESTIGATORY REPORTS. THE POLICIES MUST REQUIRE THAT ALL RECORDS ARE PRESERVED AT LEAST THROUGH THE FINAL RESOLUTION OF LITIGATION OR POTENTIAL LITIGATION IN ALL AFFECTED CASES AND ANY RELATED CIVIL CASES.
- (7) IF AN INVESTIGATION CONCERNING WRONGFUL ACTION BY A CRIME LABORATORY OCCURRED AFTER JULY 1, 2014, AND BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, AND THE INVESTIGATION RESULTED IN CRIMINAL ALLEGATIONS FILED AGAINST THE CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE OR A SUSTAINED INTERNAL AFFAIRS ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT SUPERVISING THE CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE, THE CRIME LABORATORY DIRECTOR SHALL, AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE BUT NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, PREPARE A FINAL REPORT, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4)(c) OF THIS SECTION,

AND PROVIDE THE REPORT TO ALL DISTRICT ATTORNEYS WITH JURISDICTION OVER ANY CRIMINAL CASE THAT IS IDENTIFIED IN THE FINAL REPORT THAT IS PENDING OR HAS RESULTED IN A CONVICTION IN THAT JURISDICTION. THE REPORT MUST INCLUDE THE LIST OF CASES REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (2)(f) OF THIS SECTION.

- (8) ALL RECORDS RELATED TO AN INVESTIGATION, INCLUDING NOTICES AND REPORTS, ARE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RECORDS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 24-72-302. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, RELEASE OF THE RECORDS IS GOVERNED BY PART 3 OF ARTICLE 72 OF TITLE 24.
- 16-12-306. Prosecution duty to notify defendants and defendant's counsel content of notice. (1) A district attorney who receives a notice from a crime laboratory director pursuant to section 16-12-305 (3)(a) that an investigation of wrongful action was initiated shall notify the defendant in the case that is subject to the investigation as soon as practicable but no later than ninety-one days after receiving the notice of the initiation of the investigation, unless court rules, court order, or law requires an earlier deadline for disclosure.
- (2) (a) A DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHO RECEIVES A FINAL REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 16-12-305 (5)(b) OR (7) THAT DETERMINES THAT A CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE ENGAGED IN WRONGFUL ACTION IN A CASE SHALL NOTIFY THE DEFENDANT IN THAT CASE, AND EACH DEFENDANT WHOSE CASE WAS REVIEWED AS PART OF THE INVESTIGATION, OF THE DETERMINATION OF WRONGFUL ACTION IN THE CASE THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE INVESTIGATION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE BUT NO LATER THAN NINETY-ONE DAYS AFTER THE RECEIPT OF THE FINAL REPORT.
- (b) The district attorney shall also notify each defendant in a case identified by the crime laboratory director in the list of cases described in section 16-12-305 (2)(f) that was provided to the district attorney but only if the defendant's criminal case is pending or resulted in a conviction in that jurisdiction. The district attorney shall notify the defendant as soon as practicable but no later than ninety-one days after receipt of the final report.
- (3) If a crime Laboratory director's investigation initiated pursuant to section 16-12-305 (1) is not completed within one hundred twenty-six days, the district attorney shall notify the defendants identified by the crime Laboratory in the list of cases described in section 16-12-305 (2)(f) that was provided to the district attorney of the investigation of the wrongful action but only when the criminal case is pending or resulted in a criminal conviction. The district attorney shall notify the

- 1 DEFENDANTS PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (3) AS SOON AS
- 2 PRACTICABLE. THE NOTICE OF AN INCOMPLETE INVESTIGATION DESCRIBED
- 3 IN THIS SUBSECTION (3) IS IN ADDITION TO THE NOTICE OF A FINAL REPORT
- 4 REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.
- 5 (4) In addition to the information required in a notice
- 6 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (4), THE NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT MADE
- 7 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION MUST STATE THAT THERE
- 8 IS A FINAL REPORT OF WRONGFUL ACTION BY A CRIME LABORATORY
- 9 EMPLOYEE INVOLVED IN THE DEFENDANT'S CASE. THE NOTICE MADE TO A
- 10 DEFENDANT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION MUST INCLUDE:".
- 11 Strike pages 9 and 10.
- 12 Page 11, strike lines 1 through 18.
- 13 Renumber succeeding subsections accordingly.
- 14 Page 12, line 26, strike "(3)(c)" and substitute "(5)(c)".
- Page 13, line 7, strike "(3)(c)" and substitute "(5)(c)".
- 16 Page 13, strike lines 12 through 24.
- 17 Page 13, lines 26 and 27, strike "OF WRONGFUL ACTION COMMITTED BY A
- 18 CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE" and substitute "THAT A CRIME
- 19 LABORATORY EMPLOYEE ENGAGED IN WRONGFUL ACTION".
- 20 Page 15, strike line 14 and substitute "THAT A CRIME LABORATORY
- 21 EMPLOYEE WHO WORKED ON THEIR CASE IS THE SUBJECT OF AN
- 22 INVESTIGATION OF WRONGFUL ACTION,".
- 23 Page 15, line 26, strike "DISCOVERY" and substitute "DISCOVERY,
- 24 INCLUDING POST-CONVICTION DISCOVERY,".
- 25 Page 16, line 15, strike "(4)(c)," and substitute "(5)(b)(II),".
- Page 17, line 2, after "LABORATORY," insert "INCLUDING AN UNREDACTED
- 27 COPY OF THE FINAL REPORT,".
- Page 18, strike lines 11 through 15 and substitute:
- 29 "(5) (a) UNLESS IT IS IN CONFLICT WITH A SPECIFIC PROVISION OF
- 30 THIS SECTION, RULE 16 OF THE COLORADO RULES OF CRIMINAL
- 31 PROCEDURE APPLIES TO ANY POST-CONVICTION PROCEEDINGS UNDER THIS

SECTION.

(b) IN POST-CONVICTION PROCEEDINGS UNDER THIS SECTION, A PROSECUTING ATTORNEY SHALL PERFORM THEIR OBLIGATIONS:

- (I) PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(c), AND (2)(d) OF THIS SECTION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, BUT NOT LATER THAN FORTY-FIVE DAYS AFTER THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY RECEIVES A VALID DISCOVERY REQUEST OR COURT ORDER PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(c) OF THIS SECTION; AND
- (II) PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (2)(e), (2)(f), (2)(g), AND (2)(h) OF THIS SECTION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, BUT NOT LATER THAN THIRTY-FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE EVIDENTIARY HEARING REGARDING THE POST-CONVICTION PROCEEDING.".

Page 19, after line 9 insert:

- "(7) (a) If a defendant alleges a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel as part of a claim brought pursuant to this section, the provisions of section 18-1-417 regarding waiver of confidentiality apply.
- (b) The counsel of record shall disclose any materials from a prior counsel file that must be disclosed pursuant to section 18-1-417 as soon as practicable upon a request from the prosecution and no later than thirty-five days from the request of the prosecution. The custodian may file a motion with the court and the court may grant an extension to make the disclosure upon a showing of good cause.
- (c) After making a request pursuant to section 18-1-417 upon a showing of a good faith belief that material exists within the scope of a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel that has not been produced, the prosecution may file a motion with the court seeking in camera review of material subject to a good faith dispute. The prosecution shall serve any such request upon the custodian of the records.
- (8) SUBJECT TO CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS, THE COURT SHALL SET A DEADLINE AT LEAST THIRTY-FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE EVIDENTIARY HEARING FOR THE PARTIES TO:
- (a) EXCHANGE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH WITNESS A PARTY MAY CALL AT THE HEARING AND TO DESIGNATE WITNESSES WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE CALLED; AND
- (b) DESIGNATE A WITNESS AS AN EXPERT AND DESIGNATE THE AREA IN WHICH THE PARTY WILL SEEK TO QUALIFY THE EXPERT. SUBJECT TO CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS, THE COURT SHALL ORDER THE PARTIES TO PROVIDE A REPORT FROM THE DESIGNATED EXPERT OR SUMMARY OF THE EXPERT'S TESTIMONY THAT ALLOWS THE OPPOSING PARTY TO PREPARE

- 1 TO RESPOND TO THE EXPERT'S TESTIMONY.".
- 2 Page 22, line 16, strike "OF:" and substitute "OF JUSTIFIABLE EXCUSE OR
- 3 EXCUSABLE NEGLECT.".
- 4 Page 22, strike lines 17 through 19.
- 5 Page 23, lines 7 and 8, strike "SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE TIME
- 6 PERIOD TO FILE THE PETITION HAS EXPIRED BEFORE THE EVIDENTIARY
- 7 HEARING." and substitute "SHALL, PRIOR TO THE EVIDENTIARY HEARING,
- 8 DETERMINE WHETHER THE PETITION WAS TIMELY FILED.".
- 9 Page 23, strike lines 18 through 27.
- 10 Page 24, strike lines 1 and 2.

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- Page 24, line 3, strike "(b)" and substitute "(2)".
- Page 24, line 7 and 8, strike "THIS SUBSECTION (2)." and substitute "ANY
- 13 DEADLINES OR OTHER DISCOVERY REQUIREMENTS.".
- Page 24, strike lines 21 through 27 and substitute:
- 15 "(5) (a) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, WRONGFUL ACTION 16 IS MATERIAL TO THE CASE IF, WHEN CONSIDERED IN THE TOTALITY OF THE 17 CASE:
 - (I) THE EVIDENCE TESTED BY THE CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE OR THE RESULTS OF TESTING OR TESTIMONY OF THE CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE IS SIGNIFICANT AND IMPORTANT EVIDENCE IN THE CASE;
 - (II) (A) A FACT OR INFERENCE IN FAVOR OF GUILT THAT RESULTED FROM TESTING OR TESTIMONY ABOUT EVIDENCE TESTED BY THE CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE WAS NOT ALSO ESTABLISHED BY INDEPENDENT, RELIABLE EVIDENCE; OR
 - (B) A FACT OR INFERENCE IN FAVOR OF INNOCENCE BASED UPON ANY TESTING OR TESTIMONY ABOUT EVIDENCE TESTED BY THE CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE WAS NOT KNOWN OR PRESENTED PRIOR TO THE CONVICTION AND COULD BE PRESENTED AT A NEW TRIAL; AND
- 29 (III) THERE IS A REASONABLE PROBABILITY THAT, BUT FOR THE 30 WRONGFUL ACTION, THE RESULTS OF THE PROCEEDING WOULD HAVE BEEN 31 DIFFERENT, WHICH IS SATISFIED WHEN THERE IS EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO UNDERMINE CONFIDENCE IN THE VERDICT OR GUILTY PLEA.
- 33 (b) AS LONG AS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (5)(a) OF THIS
 34 SECTION ARE SATISFIED, WRONGFUL ACTION MAY BE MATERIAL TO THE
 35 CASE IF THE WRONGFUL ACTION SIGNIFICANTLY IMPEACHES OR CASTS

- 1 DOUBT UPON THE ACCURACY OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE TESTING, THE
- 2 PRESENTATION OF TEST RESULTS, TESTIMONY ABOUT THE TESTING OR
- 3 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE BY A CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE OR OTHER
- 4 WITNESS.".
- 5 Page 25, strike lines 1 through 5.
- 6 Page 25, after line 15 insert:
- 7 "SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-72-303, add
- 8 (4)(a.5) as follows:
- 9 24-72-303. Records of official actions required open to
- 10 inspection applicability. (4) (a.5) UPON COMPLETION OF A FINAL
- 11 REPORT WHICH CONCLUDES A CRIME LABORATORY EMPLOYEE ENGAGED
- 12 IN WRONGFUL ACTION, AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 16-12-305 (5)(b), THE
- 13 FINAL REPORT IS OPEN FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION, AND IF THE REQUESTER
- 14 REQUESTS ACCESS TO REPORT, THE CUSTODIAN SHALL PROVIDE ACCESS TO
- 15 THE FINAL REPORT SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTIONS (4)(b),
- (4)(c), AND (4)(d) OF THIS SECTION.".
- 17 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

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