



*American Academy of Forensic Sciences
American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors
International Association for Identification
International Association of Forensic Nurses
National Association of Medical Examiners
Society of Forensic Toxicologists/ American Board of Forensic
Toxicology*

LEGISLATIVE ALERT
5/16/2016

Last week the Senate Judiciary Committee passed two pieces of legislation that are very important to the forensic community. S.2577, the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2016 and the S. 2348 Rapid DNA Act

S. 2577, re-authorizes the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Science Act. The CFSO has worked actively with the Senate to pass this bill. The re-authorization changes the grant to increase the dollar amount to \$25m a year, decrease the amount of funds that can be taken out for administrative changes to and make the minimum amount of funding that a grantee can get 1% rather than .6%. The legislation also calls for a needs assessment of the community to ensure future grants meet our requirements.

S 2348 , will authorize criminal justice agencies using Rapid DNA devices and requisite quality assurance methods approved by the FBI to upload reference sample profiles generated by such devices to CODIS, will direct the FBI to issue standards and procedures for the use of Rapid DNA instruments outside of an accredited laboratory environment and the use of DNA analyses for reference samples derived from Rapid DNA instruments, authorizes the FBI to waive the current requirement that samples collected from federal or District of Columbia offenders be sent to the FBI for processing in cases where samples are processed using FBI approved Rapid DNA instruments, quality assurance standards, and infrastructure and maintains this capability be limited to governmental law enforcement agencies and provides a measure that all matches be verified by an accredited lab prior to that information being used at trial.

Both bills will now move to the floor for a vote perhaps as early as this week. Each has a companion bill in the House that we expect to markup shortly as well. Please keep the letters coming to your Members of Congress.

