

Legislative Management's Interim Health Services Committee
Testimony presented by:
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Office of Attorney General
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The Toxicology Section of the laboratory currently screens blood and urine samples for the presence of 116 drugs. The current turn-around time for drug screening cases is **23** calendar days. Blood alcohol samples have a turn-around time of less than **6** calendar days. Providing quality and timely service to law enforcement and coroners across the state is our priority. The laboratory has begun the process of acquiring the infrastructure necessary to do quantitation but it is a conservative approach that will not impact our current services. This approach will guarantee the new analytical techniques will meet all the rigorous standards required by our accreditation.

The estimated cost of implementing drug quantitation will require the following:

- Funding for 2 FTEs (\$178,514 x 2)
- Funding for reagents and consumables to process samples (\$80,000)

Total cost \$437,028 dollars

Adding quantitation to the workload without additional resources to handle it properly will dramatically impact the service currently provided. Without adequate staffing, delays will occur in drug screening cases. This causes delays for law enforcement in preparing their cases and in turn for the prosecution of criminals. Law enforcement agencies will become increasingly frustrated if cases are not processed in a timely manner. In addition to law enforcement, the public is dependent on results from questioned death cases. Without screening results a death certificate will not be issued by the medical examiner or coroner. This causes undue stress and hardship on family members because it will delay any insurance processing.