



HOUSE BILL 323: Assess Costs of Local LEO Crime Lab Analysis.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 27, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Faircloth, McNeill, Boles, Davis	Prepared by:	Susan Sitze*
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H323-CSSAf-12		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 323 broadens the scope of crime labs that can receive court ordered lab fees.*

CURRENT LAW and BILL ANALYSIS: In a criminal action where a defendant is convicted, a defendant enters a plea of guilty or no contest, or costs are assessed against a prosecuting witness, the Court can order certain costs to be assessed against and collected from the defendant. G.S.7A-304(a)(8), (9b), and (12) currently allow costs to be assessed for the services of crime laboratory facilities operated by a local government or a group of local governments in certain cases in which the laboratory has performed certain types of analysis or provided an expert witness to testify to results of an analysis performed by the lab.

The House Bill 323 would remove the limitation requiring the lab be operated by a local government or group of local governments and allow the fee to be assessed for the services of any crime laboratory facility.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act becomes effective July 1, 2019, and applies to costs assessed on or after that date.

**Amy Darden, Staff Attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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