



SENATE BILL 155: Assess Costs of Local LEO Crime Lab Analysis.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	March 6, 2019
Introduced by:	Sens. J. Jackson, Bishop, Daniel	Prepared by:	Susan Sitze*
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 155 broadens the scope of local 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) currently allows costs to be assessed for the services of crime laboratory facilities operated by a local government or a group of local governments in cases in which the laboratory has, as part of the investigation leading to a defendant's conviction:

- Performed DNA analysis of the crime;
- Tested bodily fluids of the defendant for the presence of alcohol of controlled substances; or
- Provided analysis of any controlled substance possessed by the defendant or their agent.

Senate Bill 155 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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