

# PRE-MEETING READING PACKET

## Preservation and Storage of Biological Evidence For panel discussion - Tuesday, September 29, 2009, 8:00 a.m.

### Issue Summary

*Prepared by Sheri Heffelfinger, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division  
For the Law and Justice Interim Committee, September 29, 2009, meeting.*

#### BACKGROUND

This panel is designed to engage the committee's discussion on the following study task under SJR 29:

- ▶ Identify **current practices and challenges** of state and local law enforcement agencies and other entities charged with preserving biological evidence.

Part of fulfilling this study task will also be to conduct a survey of local agencies to further determine current practices and challenges.

#### ATTACHMENTS

- ▶ Section 46-21-111, MCA.
- ▶ Letter from the Montana Innocence Project with attached surveys.

#### COMMITTEE DECISION POINTS

Following the panel discussion, the committee should decide:

- ▶ What further information does the committee want concerning preservation and storage of biological evidence?
- ▶ What questions does the committee want to ensure get asked in the survey?