



AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EASTERN MONTANA LABORATORY OF CRIMINALISTICS IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION FOR LEASING OF THE LABORATORY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 44-3-301, MCA, is amended to read:

"44-3-301. Laboratory of criminalistics. (1) There is a laboratory of criminalistics within the department of justice. The laboratory's purpose is to perform analysis of specimens submitted by all Montana state, county, or city law enforcement officers and all state agencies and referral specimens from other states if accepted by the laboratory director.

(2) The laboratory's functions include analysis of toxicologic and criminalistic specimens which the laboratory director considers within the performance capability of the laboratory.

(3) The laboratory shall establish a Yellowstone County branch. The laboratory director will determine the purposes, duties, and functions of the Yellowstone County branch, but priority is given to the relief of the backlogs of chemistry and toxicology statewide."

Section 2. Appropriations. (1) The department is authorized to spend up to \$310,000 of general fund one time only to secure appropriate leased facilities for the biennium for the Yellowstone County branch of the laboratory.

(2) There is appropriated \$476,000 from the general fund to the department of justice for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, to provide for personal services and operating expenses, including training and initial operating expenses, of an eastern Montana branch of the laboratory of criminalistics in Yellowstone County. Unspent funds revert to the general fund.

(3) There is appropriated \$724,000 from the general fund one time only to the department of justice for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015, for equipment for the eastern Montana branch of the laboratory of

criminalistics in Yellowstone County. Unspent funds revert to the general fund.

Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2015.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,
HB 0512, originated in the House.

Chief Clerk of the House

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2015.

President of the Senate

Signed this _____ day
of _____, 2015.

HOUSE BILL NO. 512

INTRODUCED BY D. MORTENSEN, D. ANKNEY, E. ARNTZEN, S. BERGLEE, T. BROWN, V. COURT,
G. CUSTER, C. FISCUS, F. GARNER, D. HAGSTROM, B. HARRIS, K. HOLMLUND, D. JONES,
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