

**Department of State Police
Forensic Science Improvement**

On March 7th, the Public Safety Subcommittee recommended approval of the submission of a federal grant application from the Department of State Police to the U.S. Department of Justice in the amount of \$250,000 for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Competitive Grants program.

The purpose of the grant is to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services in laboratories operated by states and local governments. OSP's Forensic Services Division would use the grant funds to improve the timeliness of completing toxicology requests, which are used in conjunction with drug expert recognition evaluations in court. There is no match requirement for this one-year grant. If successful, OSP may return to the Legislature to seek additional federal funds expenditure limitation.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.