

Chapter 37

(Senate Bill 498)

AN ACT concerning

Public Safety – Statewide Accounting of Sexual Assault Evidence Kits

FOR the purpose of requiring a certain law enforcement agency or other State or local agency to conduct an inventory of certain sexual assault kit evidence on or before a certain date; requiring a certain agency to prepare a certain report regarding certain untested sexual assault evidence collection kits on or before a certain date; requiring the report to be submitted to the Attorney General; requiring the Attorney General to prepare and submit to the General Assembly a certain report and certain recommendations on or before a certain date; and generally relating to sexual assault evidence.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That:

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Sexual assault kit evidence” means evidence collected from the victim of a sexual assault offense with a Department of State Police sexual assault evidence collection kit by a health care provider during a forensic medical examination.

(3) “Sexual assault offense” means a violation or an attempted violation of Title 3, Subtitle 3 or § 3–602 of the Criminal Law Article.

(4) “Untested sexual assault collection kit” means a sexual assault collection kit that has not been submitted to the State Crime Lab or a similar qualified laboratory for either a serology or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) test.

(b) On or before January 1, 2016, a law enforcement agency or other State or local agency charged with the maintenance, storage, and preservation of sexual assault kit evidence shall conduct an inventory of all kits that are stored by the agency.

(c) (1) On or before March 1, 2016, an agency described in subsection (b) of this section shall prepare a written report containing the number of untested sexual assault collection kits in the possession of the agency and the date the sexual assault kit evidence was collected.

(2) The report shall be submitted to the Attorney General.

(d) On or before December 1, 2016, the Attorney General shall prepare and transmit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, detailing:

- (1) the number of untested sexual assault collection kits being stored by each agency;
 - (2) the date that each untested sexual assault collection kit was collected;
- and
- (3) recommendations for addressing any backlog of untested sexual assault collection kits.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

Approved by the Governor, April 14, 2015.