

FORENSIC FUNDING AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Douglas R. Welton

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses grant funding for forensic equipment.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires the Department of Public Safety (department) to administer the Forensic Equipment Grant Program (program) to provide funding for certain counties to purchase forensic equipment; and
- ▶ provides the department with rulemaking authority to implement the program.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

This bill appropriates in fiscal year 2025:

- ▶ to Department of Public Safety - Programs & Operations - Department Commissioner's Office as a one-time appropriation:
 - from the General Fund, One-time, \$2,000,000

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53-1-122, Utah Code Annotated 1953



28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section **53-1-122** is enacted to read:

30 **53-1-122. Forensic Equipment Grant Program -- Rulemaking.**

31 (1) As used in this section:

32 (a) "Forensic equipment" includes software that allows for the analysis of evidence
33 relating to a crime.

34 (b) "Grant" means a grant awarded under this section.

35 (c) "Program" means the Forensic Equipment Grant Program created in this section.

36 (2) (a) There is created within the department the Forensic Equipment Grant Program.

37 (b) The purpose of the program is to provide grant funding for a county with a forensic
38 unit that services multiple jurisdictions to purchase forensic equipment that allows for the
39 analysis of evidence relating to a crime and provide related training for employees.

40 (3) (a) A county that submits a proposal for a grant to the department shall include in
41 the proposal:

42 (i) a statement describing the forensic equipment the county is seeking to purchase and
43 the reasons why the county wishes to purchase the equipment;

44 (ii) a plan for utilizing the forensic equipment, including related training;

45 (iii) any funding sources in addition to the grant for the forensic equipment and related
46 training;

47 (iv) any existing or planned partnerships for the use of the forensic equipment with
48 another entity; and

49 (v) other information the department determines is necessary to evaluate the proposal.

50 (b) When evaluating a proposal for a grant, the department shall consider:

51 (i) the cost of the proposal;

52 (ii) the extent to which additional funding sources or existing or planned partnerships
53 may benefit the proposal; and

54 (iii) the viability and sustainability of the proposal.

55 (4) Subject to Subsection (3), the department may, in accordance with Title 63G,
56 Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, make rules to establish:

57 (a) eligibility criteria for a grant, including the types of forensic equipment that is
58 eligible for a grant;

