

## Issue Brief – Laboratory Equipment

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH / EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY SERVICES

NUMBER DOH IB 07-10

### SUMMARY

The Division of Epidemiology and Laboratory Services (ELS) works with and for other state, local and private entities to provide comprehensive public health laboratory testing and technical consultation. The Division runs a laboratory which provides testing for a number of other state and local entities, including Environmental Quality, Public Safety, the Medical Examiner's Office and local public works departments, to name just a few. The facilities in which the Division is operating are inadequate and no ongoing funding is provided for equipment replacement.

### OBJECTIVE

This building block recommendation is to provide funding to replace broken and outdated equipment for the Division of Epidemiology and Laboratory Services to enable the Division to better fulfill its statutory responsibilities of support to other state and local organizations.

### DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Analyst visited the Divisions laboratory facility during the interim. The facility itself is inadequate to safely house all of the operations that are being done in the laboratories. A request has been made to the Capital Facilities Committee for a new facility. It does not appear that this will happen in the next year or more. Given these circumstances, the quality of the testing could deteriorate without fully functioning equipment, with or without a new facility.

Aging and outdated laboratory equipment may result in poor analytical data used by other agencies and programs that need accurate data to make decisions for patient care, environmental remediation, swift prosecution of law enforcement cases, etc. Outdated equipment must be replaced to allow for implementation of new tests that are required as laboratory science advances in support of public health decision making and intervention.

The table to the right lists some equipment which could be purchased with additional funding.

### LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The Analyst recommends the Subcommittee approve funding the Division of Epidemiology with \$500,000 one-time General Fund for laboratory equipment.

<b>Gas Chromatograph</b>	Toxicology		<b>45,000</b>
Replacement of old GC used for blood alcohol in DUI testing			
Liquid Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer Mass Spectrometer			
<b>LCMSMS</b>	Toxicology		<b>120,000</b>
To perform analysis on new prescription drugs that the Div. does not currently do not have the capacity to analyze			
Liquid Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer Mass Spectrometer			
<b>LCMSMS</b>	Chemistry		<b>120,000</b>
To perform analysis on Level I nerve agents			
<b>Mercury Analyzer</b>	Chemistry		<b>35,000</b>
To perform analysis on mercury in complex water samples at very low levels			
<b>Flow Injection FIA Analyze</b>	Chemistry		<b>45,000</b>
Replacement analyzer that is used to perform analysis on ammonia samples in drinking water and waste water.			
Current analyzer is 15 years old.			
<b>Genetics Sequencer</b>	Microbiology		<b>100,000</b>
Used for identification of micro organism on the genetic level			
<b>3 Freezers</b>	Microbiology		<b>45,000</b>
To replace old freezer in the microbiology labs			
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$510,000</b>