



1           WHEREAS, this expanded use of DNA profiling to identify family members, known  
2 as "familial DNA searching", has been used most extensively in the United Kingdom, but  
3 has been adopted in recent years by many jurisdictions throughout the United States; and

4           WHEREAS, in 2008, California became the first state in the country to authorize  
5 familial DNA searches, Colorado followed in 2009, and it has now been used in at least eight  
6 other states; and

7           WHEREAS, according to an article in the *New York Times* regarding the use of this  
8 technology, California has solved seven cases using familial DNA searching and other  
9 jurisdictions are finding successes with the technology as well; and

10           WHEREAS, proponents of familial DNA searching have cited its potential to prevent  
11 crime and improve public safety, and although this technology helps to facilitate the  
12 identification and conviction of suspects and resolve cold cases, it has also been used to  
13 exonerate those who were wrongfully convicted and prevent wrongful convictions in the  
14 future.

15           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
16 direct the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab to study and make recommendations on the  
17 implementation of, and protocols for the effective use of, familial DNA searching in  
18 Louisiana, and to report its findings to the legislature no later than January 1, 2018.

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab is directed  
20 to study and report the costs of implementation and use of this technology.

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab is directed  
22 to study and report the benefits of using this technology and to review programs and  
23 protocols from other jurisdictions, throughout the United States and internationally, to  
24 identify best practices from those jurisdictions that have successfully implemented familial  
25 DNA searching programs.

26           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in studying and developing the  
27 recommendations for the implementation of familial DNA searching in Louisiana, the  
28 Louisiana State Police Crime Lab is directed to solicit and obtain input from various  
29 stakeholders, including but not limited to prosecutors, criminal defense lawyers, judges,  
30 victim advocates, and law enforcement.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted  
2 to the director of the Louisiana State Police Crime Lab.

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Directs the La. State Police Crime Lab to study and make recommendations on the implementation of, and protocols for the effective use of, familial DNA searching in Louisiana, and to report its findings to the legislature no later than Jan. 1, 2018.