

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SESSION  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL 46**

Introduced by Ashford, 20.

Read first time January 10, 2013

Committee: Judiciary

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to crime laboratories; to provide for  
2 consolidation and coordination of services in certain  
3 counties.

4 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that there is  
2 redundancy in services being provided by public crime laboratories of  
3 counties which contain a city of the metropolitan class and that  
4 plans for the consolidation and coordination of public crime  
5 laboratory services within such counties should be created. The  
6 ultimate decision of whether crime laboratory services should be  
7 consolidated and coordinated in such a county should be made by the  
8 registered voters of such a county.

9           (2) Within thirty days after the effective date of this  
10 act, any county which contains a city of the metropolitan class and  
11 any city of the metropolitan class therein shall appoint a joint  
12 planning board. The planning board shall have five members, two  
13 appointed by the county board, two appointed by the mayor and city  
14 council, and the chairperson appointed by the other members. The  
15 members shall not be current employees of either the county or city  
16 and shall not be compensated or reimbursed for expenses. The planning  
17 board shall have one member from each of the following areas of  
18 expertise:

19           (a) A forensic toxicologist;

20           (b) An expert in forensic DNA;

21           (c) A criminologist;

22           (d) An individual with experience in law enforcement and  
23 crime scene investigation; and

24           (e) A medical ethicist.

25           (3) The planning board shall study issues relating to the

1 consolidation and coordination of the public crime laboratory  
2 services of the county and city and develop a plan for consolidation  
3 and coordination of public crime laboratory services. The planning  
4 board shall inventory public sector and private sector resources,  
5 conduct needs assessments, and analyze national best practices. The  
6 plan shall provide for an independent governing board of members with  
7 expertise in forensics for public crime laboratory services. The  
8 independent governing board shall have members with the same  
9 expertise listed in subdivisions (2)(a) through (e) of this section.  
10 The planning board shall develop the plan within six months after the  
11 planning board was established.

12 (4) The county board shall cause the plan for  
13 consolidation and coordination of public crime laboratory services to  
14 be submitted at the next statewide primary or general election to the  
15 registered voters of the county. If a majority of the registered  
16 voters in the county voting on the issue vote in favor of the plan,  
17 the county and city shall implement the plan within six months after  
18 the election. If the plan is not approved at such election, it shall  
19 not be implemented.