

S 3378

Forensic Science and Standards Act of 2012

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Jul 12, 2012

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduce: CR S4952-4954) (Jul 12, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/3378>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]

Party: Democratic • **State:** WV • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 10, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 12, 2012

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 6106	Identical bill	Aug 2, 2012: Referred to the Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation.

Forensic Science and Standards Act of 2012 - Establishes a national forensic science research program to improve, expand, and coordinate federal research in forensic sciences.

Requires the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to develop a report identifying the most critical forensic science disciplines that require further research to strengthen the scientific foundation in those disciplines and making recommendations.

Establishes a National Forensic Science Coordinating Office at the NSF to coordinate among federal agencies: (1) the development of a unified federal research strategy to enhance the validity and reliability of forensic science disciplines; (2) the development of a five-year roadmap, updated triennially, for the unified strategy; and (3) any necessary programs, policies, and budgets to support implementation of the roadmap.

Directs NSF to create a merit-reviewed, competitive forensic science research grants program to improve the foundation and practice of forensic science in the United States, based on recommendations in the unified strategy.

Requires NSF to: (1) establish two forensic science research centers to conduct research consistent with the unified strategy, (2) award a grant of up to \$10 million to each center, and (3) conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the grants program every four years.

Directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to identify or coordinate the development of forensic science standards to enhance the validity and reliability of forensic science activities.

Requires NIST to establish a Forensic Science Advisory Committee to provide advice to federal agencies, NIST, and the Department of Justice.

Instructs the Attorney General to promote the adoption of the standards developed under this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 12, 2012:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 12, 2012:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S4952)
- **Jul 12, 2012:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S4952-4954)