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Fast-Track Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Forensic Science Board/Department of Forensic Science
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	6 VAC 40-40
VAC Chapter title(s)	Regulations for the Implementation of the Law Permitting DNA Analysis Upon Arrest for All Violent Felonies and Certain Burglaries
Action title	Regulatory Reduction Action for 6 VAC 40-40
Date this document prepared	July 2, 2024

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19, the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

This regulatory action includes both amendments to portions of 6 VAC 40-40 as part of the Forensic Science Board's effort to reduce regulatory requirements in response to Governor Youngkin's Executive Order No. 19 (2022). In reviewing the current regulation, the Board determined that the Department's already existing DNA data bank sample tracking system could be utilized for the submission of DNA buccal samples rather than having law enforcement officers fill out a preprinted form as part of the buccal sample kit.

Acronyms and Definitions

Define all acronyms used in this form, and any technical terms that are not also defined in the "Definitions" section of the regulation.

No additional acronyms or technical terms, other than those defined in the “Definitions” section of the regulation, are utilized in this form.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) the name of the agency taking the action; and 3) the title of the regulation.

The Forensic Science Board approved this proposed Fast Track Action, entitled “Regulatory Reduction Action for 6 VAC 40-40,” at its April 10, 2024 meeting.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, “mandate” has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, “a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part.”

Consistent with Virginia Code § 2.2-4012.1, also explain why this rulemaking is expected to be noncontroversial and therefore appropriate for the fast-track rulemaking process.

The Board undertook this action in response to Governor Youngkin’s Executive Order No.19 (2022), which encouraged the review of regulations with the focus on streamlining and reducing regulatory requirements and burdens. Because this action reduces the burden on law enforcement agencies and utilizes the Department’s already existing DNA data bank sample tracking system, it should not be controversial.

Legal Basis

Identify (1) the promulgating agency, and (2) the state and/or federal legal authority for the regulatory change, including the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia and Acts of Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable. Your citation must include a specific provision, if any, authorizing the promulgating agency to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency’s overall regulatory authority.

The Forensic Science Board has the authority to promulgate DNA Data Bank regulations under Virginia Code §§ 9.1-1110 and 19.2-310.5.

Purpose

Explain the need for the regulatory change, including a description of: (1) the rationale or justification, (2) the specific reasons the regulatory change is essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens, and (3) the goals of the regulatory change and the problems it is intended to solve.

This regulatory action reduces the burden on requesting law enforcement agencies and DNA Data Bank staff members. The goal is to reduce the burden of the regulation by taking advantage of the already existing DNA data bank sample tracking system for prelog of these DNA samples.

Substance

Briefly identify and explain the new substantive provisions, the substantive changes to existing sections, or both. A more detailed discussion is provided in the "Detail of Changes" section below.

6 VAC 40-40-80 is amended to eliminate the labeling requirements now replaced by prelog in the DNA data bank sample tracking system. 6 VAC 40-40-90 is amended to indicate that the prelog function should be utilized by law enforcement agencies if available. If unavailable, the original submission form may be utilized.

Issues

Identify the issues associated with the regulatory change, including: 1) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the public, such as individual private citizens or businesses, of implementing the new or amended provisions; 2) the primary advantages and disadvantages to the agency or the Commonwealth; and 3) other pertinent matters of interest to the regulated community, government officials, and the public. If there are no disadvantages to the public or the Commonwealth, include a specific statement to that effect.

The public is not given access to the Department's Data Bank information. The advantages to the Department and the law enforcement agencies are that it allows law enforcement agencies to prelog their samples, reducing the time to handwrite the personal identifying information on a submission form. The entry into the DNA data bank sample tracking system allows for a bar code on the sample to tie the sample to the information prepopulated in the system by local law enforcement. For the Department's DNA Data Bank staff, it automatically populates the required fields in the Data Bank's laboratory information management system when the sample's bar code is scanned and eliminates any time spent deciphering law enforcement officers' handwriting. It will make the Data Bank staff more efficient if utilized by law enforcement officers. There are no disadvantages.

Requirements More Restrictive than Federal

Identify and describe any requirement of the regulatory change which is more restrictive than applicable federal requirements. Include a specific citation for each applicable federal requirement, and a rationale for the need for the more restrictive requirements. If there are no applicable federal requirements, or no requirements that exceed applicable federal requirements, include a specific statement to that effect.

The Department is obligated under the Federal DNA Identification Act of 1994 and its participation in the National DNA Index System to safeguard the DNA records housed in the Data Bank (see 34 U.S. Code § 12592). Virginia Code §§ 19.2-310.5 and 19.2-310.6 provide for similar, but not less restrictive, requirements.

Agencies, Localities, and Other Entities Particularly Affected

Consistent with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia, identify any other state agencies, localities, or other entities particularly affected by the regulatory change. Other entities could include local partners such as tribal governments, school boards, community services boards, and similar regional organizations. "Particularly affected" are those that are likely to bear any identified disproportionate material impact which would not be experienced by other agencies, localities, or entities. "Locality" can refer to either local governments or the locations in the Commonwealth where the activities relevant to the regulation or regulatory change are most likely to occur. If no agency, locality, or entity is particularly affected, include a specific statement to that effect.

Other State Agencies Particularly Affected

There are no other state agencies particularly affected. Only local law enforcement agencies are submitting arrestee samples under 6 VAC 40-40.

Localities Particularly Affected

Local law enforcement agencies that are submitting such samples to the Data Bank. The impact would be positive in that it would lessen the burden on a local law enforcement agency with submitting arrestee samples to the Data Bank.

Other Entities Particularly Affected

None.

Economic Impact

Consistent with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia, identify all specific economic impacts (costs and/or benefits), anticipated to result from the regulatory change. When describing a particular economic impact, specify which new requirement or change in requirement creates the anticipated economic impact. Keep in mind that this is the proposed change versus the status quo.

Impact on State Agencies

<p><i>For your agency:</i> projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change, including: a) fund source / fund detail; b) delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures; and c) whether any costs or revenue loss can be absorbed within existing resources</p>	<p>Costs: \$0 (DNA data bank sample tracking system is already fully operational) Savings: \$ 1,694.88 in wages of Data Bank staff attributable to deciphering and cross-referencing handwritten entries versus confirming data entry in the sample tracking system</p>
<p><i>For other state agencies:</i> projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change, including a delineation of one-time versus on-going expenditures.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><i>For all agencies:</i> Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.</p>	<p>Increased efficiency.</p>

Impact on Localities

If this analysis has been reported on the ORM Economic Impact form, indicate the tables (1a or 2) on which it was reported. Information provided on that form need not be repeated here.

Projected costs, savings, fees or revenues resulting from the regulatory change.	\$4,121.60 in wages for local law enforcement agencies due to reduced time in filling out handwritten forms versus more efficient data entry in sample tracking system
Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.	Increased efficiency.

Impact on Other Entities

If this analysis has been reported on the ORM Economic Impact form, indicate the tables (1a, 3, or 4) on which it was reported. Information provided on that form need not be repeated here.

Description of the individuals, businesses, or other entities likely to be affected by the regulatory change. If no other entities will be affected, include a specific statement to that effect.	No individuals, businesses, or other entities are likely to be affected.
Agency’s best estimate of the number of such entities that will be affected. Include an estimate of the number of small businesses affected. Small business means a business entity, including its affiliates, that: a) is independently owned and operated and; b) employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million.	
All projected costs for affected individuals, businesses, or other entities resulting from the regulatory change. Be specific and include all costs including, but not limited to: a) projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for compliance by small businesses; b) specify any costs related to the development of real estate for commercial or residential purposes that are a consequence of the regulatory change; c) fees; d) purchases of equipment or services; and e) time required to comply with the requirements.	
Benefits the regulatory change is designed to produce.	

Alternatives to Regulation

Describe any viable alternatives to the regulatory change that were considered, and the rationale used by the agency to select the least burdensome or intrusive alternative that meets the essential purpose of the regulatory change. Also, include discussion of less intrusive or less costly alternatives for small businesses, as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia, of achieving the purpose of the regulatory change.

This regulatory change is designed to reduce the burden both to local law enforcement agencies and DFS. There was no other means to reduce the burden to the agencies other than the changes that have been made by these amendments.

If this analysis has been reported on the ORM Economic Impact form, indicate the tables on which it was reported. Information provided on that form need not be repeated here.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

Consistent with § 2.2-4007.1 B of the Code of Virginia, describe the agency's analysis of alternative regulatory methods, consistent with health, safety, environmental, and economic welfare, that will accomplish the objectives of applicable law while minimizing the adverse impact on small business. Alternative regulatory methods include, at a minimum: 1) establishing less stringent compliance or reporting requirements; 2) establishing less stringent schedules or deadlines for compliance or reporting requirements; 3) consolidation or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements; 4) establishing performance standards for small businesses to replace design or operational standards required in the proposed regulation; and 5) the exemption of small businesses from all or any part of the requirements contained in the regulatory change.

There is no impact on small businesses.

If this analysis has been reported on the ORM Economic Impact form, indicate the tables on which it was reported. Information provided on that form need not be repeated here.

Public Participation

Indicate how the public should contact the agency to submit comments on this regulation, and whether a public hearing will be held, by completing the text below.

Consistent with § 2.2-4011 of the Code of Virginia, if an objection to the use of the fast-track process is received within the 30-day public comment period from 10 or more persons, any member of the applicable standing committee of either house of the General Assembly or of the Joint Commission on Administrative Rules, the agency shall: 1) file notice of the objections with the Registrar of Regulations for publication in the Virginia Register and 2) proceed with the normal promulgation process with the initial publication of the fast-track regulation serving as the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action.

If you are objecting to the use of the fast-track process as the means of promulgating this regulation, please clearly indicate your objection in your comment. Please also indicate the nature of, and reason for, your objection to using this process.

The Forensic Science Board is providing an opportunity for comments on this regulatory proposal, including but not limited to (i) the costs and benefits of the regulatory proposal and any alternative approaches, (ii) the potential impacts of the regulation, and (iii) the agency's regulatory flexibility analysis stated in this background document.

Anyone wishing to submit written comments for the public comment file may do so through the Public Comment Forums feature of the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall web site at: <https://townhall.virginia.gov>. Comments may also be submitted by mail, email or fax to Amy C. Jenkins, Department Counsel, 700 N. 5th Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, (804) 786-2281, (804) 786-6857 (Facsimile), amy.jenkins@dfs.virginia.gov. In order to be considered, comments must be received by 11:59 pm on the last day of the public comment period.

Detail of Changes

List all regulatory changes and the consequences of the changes. Explain the new requirements and what they mean rather than merely quoting the text of the regulation. For example, describe the intent of the language and the expected impact. Describe the difference between existing requirement(s) and/or agency practice(s) and what is being proposed in this regulatory change. Use all tables that apply, but delete inapplicable tables.

If an existing VAC Chapter(s) is being amended or repealed, use Table 1 to describe the changes between existing VAC Chapter(s) and the proposed regulation. If existing VAC Chapter(s) or sections are being repealed and replaced, ensure Table 1 clearly shows both the current number and the new number for each repealed section and the replacement section.

Table 1: Changes to Existing VAC Chapter(s)

Current chapter-section number	New chapter-section number, if applicable	Current requirements in VAC	Change, intent, rationale, and likely impact of new requirements
6 VAC 40-40-80		When buccal sample kits are unavailable	Removal of labeling requirements.
6 VAC 40-40-90		Sealing and labeling samples	Removal of information that must be handwritten on buccal sample kit. This information may be entered using the prelog function of the DNA data bank sample tracking system. The option still exists to utilize the submission form if the system is unavailable.

If a new VAC Chapter(s) is being promulgated and is not replacing an existing Chapter(s), use Table 2.

Table 2: Promulgating New VAC Chapter(s) without Repeal and Replace

New chapter-section number	New requirements	Other regulations and law that apply	Intent and likely impact of new requirements

If the regulatory change is replacing an **emergency regulation**, and the proposed regulation is identical to the emergency regulation, complete Table 1 and/or Table 2, as described above.

If the regulatory change is replacing an **emergency regulation**, but changes have been made since the emergency regulation became effective, also complete Table 3 to describe the changes made since the emergency regulation.

Table 3: Changes to the Emergency Regulation

Emergency chapter-section number	New chapter-section number, if applicable	Current <u>emergency</u> requirement	Change, intent, rationale, and likely impact of new or changed requirements since emergency stage
