

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1497
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/13/09

Short Title: Spectral Fluorescence Signature Drug Analysis.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 13, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE RESULTS OF A SPECTRAL FLUORESCENCE
3 SIGNATURE ANALYSIS WITH REGARD AS TO WHETHER A SUBSTANCE IS A
4 DRUG ARE ADMISSIBLE AS EVIDENCE IN COURT, TO REQUIRE A PERMIT TO
5 CONDUCT A SPECTRAL FLUORESCENCE SIGNATURE ANALYSIS, AND TO
6 DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO
7 ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A PERMIT PROGRAM FOR THE PRACTICE OF
8 SPECTRAL FLUORESCENCE SIGNATURE ANALYSIS.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 SECTION 1. Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
11 a new section to read:

12 "**§ 90-95.8. Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analysis.**

13 (a) Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analysis. – In any prosecution under Article 5 of
14 Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, the results of a Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analysis
15 that meets the criteria set out in this section are admissible as evidence in court for the
16 prosecution of any violation under Article 5 of this Chapter to identify a disputed substance as
17 one of the following controlled substances: heroin as defined in G.S. 90-89(2)j.; MDMA as
18 defined in G.S. 90-89(3)c.; cocaine and any salt, isomer, salts of isomers, compound,
19 derivative, or preparation thereof, or coca leaves and any salt, isomer, salts of isomers,
20 compound, derivative, or preparation of coca leaves, or any salt, isomer, salts of isomers,
21 compound, derivative, or preparation thereof that is chemically equivalent or identical with any
22 of these substances, as defined in G.S. 90-90(1)d.; methamphetamine as defined in
23 G.S. 90-90(3)c.; and marijuana as defined in G.S. 90-94(1).

24 (b) Criteria for Admissibility. – The results of a Spectral Fluorescence Signature
25 Analysis are admissible as evidence in court under this Article only if the analysis meets both
26 of the following requirements:

27 (1) It is performed in accordance with the rules of the Department of Health and
28 Human Services.

29 (2) The person performing the analysis had, at the time of the analysis, a current
30 permit issued by the Department of Health and Human Services authorizing
31 the person to perform a Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analysis using the
32 type of instrument employed.

33 (c) Inadmissibility of Analysis Results. – The results of a Spectral Fluorescence
34 Signature Analysis of a disputed substance alleged to be a controlled substance performed in
35 accordance with this section are not admissible as evidence if:



- 1 (1) The defendant objects to the introduction into evidence of the results of the
2 Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analysis of a disputed substance chemical
3 analysis of the alleged controlled substance; and
4 (2) The defendant demonstrates that, with respect to the instrument used to
5 analyze the alleged controlled substance, preventive maintenance procedures
6 required by the regulations of the Department of Health and Human Services
7 had not been performed within the time limits prescribed by those
8 regulations.
9 (d) Judicial Notice. – The court shall take judicial notice of all of the following:
10 (1) The rules of the Department of Health and Human Services.
11 (2) The list of permits issued to the person performing the analysis, the type of
12 instrument on which the person is authorized to perform tests of controlled
13 substances, and the date the permit was issued.
14 (3) The preventive maintenance records of the Department of Health and
15 Human Services.
16 (4) Whether at the time of the Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analysis, the
17 Spectral Fluorescence Signature analyst possessed a permit authorizing the
18 Spectral Fluorescence Signature analyst to perform the Spectral
19 Fluorescence Signature Analysis administered.
20 (5) Whether preventive maintenance had been performed on the Spectral
21 Fluorescence Signature Analysis instrument in accordance with the rules of
22 the Department of Health and Human Services.
23 (e) No Restriction on Other Types of Analyses. – This section does not limit the
24 introduction of other competent evidence to identify these substances, including other chemical
25 tests."

26 **SECTION 2.** Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
27 Article to read:

28 "Article 42.

29 "Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analysis.

30 **"§ 90-640. Permit required.**

31 A person shall not conduct Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analyses without first applying
32 for and receiving a permit to engage in the practice from the Department of Health and Human
33 Services.

34 **"§ 90-641. Department of Health and Human Services establish permit program;**
35 **preventive maintenance.**

36 (a) Permit Program Established. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall
37 establish a permit program that establishes the qualifications required for an individual to
38 conduct Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analyses and the acceptable methods for conducting
39 Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analysis. The Department may charge an applicant under this
40 Article a fee for reviewing the application to determine if the applicant meets the requirements
41 for obtaining the permit. The fee shall not exceed one hundred dollars (\$100.00) and shall be
42 submitted with the application for the permit. Fees collected under this Article are receipts of
43 the Department and shall be applied to the cost of administering the program. The Department
44 shall issue permits to conduct Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analyses to individuals it finds
45 qualified subject to periodic renewal, termination, and revocation of the permit in the
46 Department's discretion.

47 (b) Preventive Maintenance. – Subject to review and approval by the Department of
48 Health and Human Services, any State or local law enforcement agency or group of law
49 enforcement agencies may contract with the vendor of any approved Spectral Fluorescence
50 Signature Analysis instrument to perform preventive maintenance on instruments used for
51 Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analysis. Such preventive maintenance shall be carried out in

1 a manner set forth and within the time limits prescribed by the Department of Health and
2 Human Services. Any vendor who performs preventive maintenance shall provide a record of
3 all such preventive maintenance to the Department of Health and Human Services, which shall
4 maintain the same.

5 (c) Public List of Permittees. – The Department of Health and Human Services shall
6 post on a Web page a list of all persons who have a permit authorizing them to perform
7 Spectral Fluorescence Signature Analyses, the instruments that each person is authorized to
8 operate, the effective dates of the permits, and the records of preventive maintenance."

9 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2009.