



TACLD

Texas Association of
Crime Laboratory
Directors



**HOUSTON FORENSIC
SCIENCE CENTER**

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April 8, 2025

Honorable John T. Smithee

House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee

Testimony for HB 2180

Dear Representative Smithee and Committee,

The Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors (TACLD) and the Houston Forensic Science Center (HFSC) appreciate the opportunity to provide information and suggestions on House Bill 2180.

Property rooms across the state are overwhelmed by an abundance of property and evidence. Historically, property and evidence have not been addressed following the disposition of the case. This results in property and evidence being addressed years after the resolution of the case resulting in unnecessary storage of property and evidence. This is overwhelming and taxing departments with storage costs and manpower to maintain the items well past the usefulness of that item in relation to the criminal investigation and prosecution. Additionally, it is depriving the lawful owner of the property of the opportunity to recover their items in a timely manner. This bill will close this communication gap that currently exists between the courts, law enforcement and property and evidence management.

Additionally, it addresses all aspects of the case instead of leaving the property and evidence to be resolved years later. This results in departments having to conduct research on old cases, reengage the courts to obtain court orders for release or destruction, publish outdated items in newspapers, attempt to locate the lawful owners or resolve tested evidence which has been unnecessarily stored. This is an additional cost and burden on departments which are already operating in manpower deficits.

The Houston Forensic Science Center supports this bill as property and evidence management have a direct correlation to evidence testing. Overcrowding affects the ability to properly store

property and evidence to ensure the integrity of the item for testing purposes. This has the potential to lead to lost or compromised evidence because maintaining storage for items that are no longer relevant to the prosecution of a case.

We appreciate your consideration as we work together to make forensic science testing more efficient and effective. Please do not hesitate to reach out to TACLD or HFSC for additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Stout', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter Stout, Ph.D., F-ABFT

CEO and President, Houston Forensic Science Center

President, Texas Association of Crime Laboratory Directors