

# HOUSE BILL NO. 5271

October 26, 2023, Introduced by Reps. Hope, Rheingans, Wilson, Dievendorf, McKinney, Hood, O'Neal, Price, Edwards, Tsernoglou and Whitsett and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to amend 1927 PA 175, entitled  
"The code of criminal procedure,"  
by amending section 16 of chapter X (MCL 770.16), as amended by  
2015 PA 229.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1

### CHAPTER X

2

Sec. 16. (1) Notwithstanding the limitations of section 2 of  
3 this chapter, a defendant convicted of a felony ~~at trial before~~  
4 ~~January 8, 2001 who is serving a prison sentence for the felony~~  
5 ~~conviction~~ may petition the circuit court to order DNA testing of  
6 biological material identified during the investigation leading to

1 ~~his or her~~ **the defendant's** conviction, and for a new trial based on  
2 the results of that testing. ~~Notwithstanding the limitations of~~  
3 ~~section 2 of this chapter, a defendant convicted of a felony at~~  
4 ~~trial on or after January 8, 2001 who establishes that all of the~~  
5 ~~following apply may petition the circuit court to order DNA testing~~  
6 ~~of biological material identified during the investigation leading~~  
7 ~~to his or her conviction, and for a new trial based on the results~~  
8 ~~of that testing:~~ **A petition filed under this subsection must**  
9 **establish that either of the following circumstances apply to the**  
10 **biological material:**

11 (a) ~~That DNA testing was done in the case or under this act.~~ **It**  
12 **was not subjected to DNA testing.**

13 (b) ~~That the results of the testing were inconclusive.~~ **It was**  
14 **subjected to DNA testing and 1 or both of the following**  
15 **circumstances apply:**

16 (i) **The defendant is requesting DNA testing using a method or**  
17 **technology that provides a reasonable likelihood of results that**  
18 **are more accurate and probative than the results of the previous**  
19 **test.**

20 (ii) **The court determines that granting the petition is in the**  
21 **interest of justice.**

22 (c) ~~That testing with current DNA technology is likely to~~  
23 ~~result in conclusive results.~~

24 (2) A petition under this section ~~shall~~ **must** be filed in the  
25 circuit court for the county in which the defendant was sentenced  
26 and ~~shall~~ **must** be assigned to the sentencing judge or ~~his or her~~  
27 **the judge's** successor. The petition ~~shall~~ **must** be served on the  
28 prosecuting attorney of the county in which the defendant was  
29 sentenced.

1           (3) A petition under this section ~~shall~~**must** allege that  
2 biological material was collected and identified during the  
3 investigation of the defendant's case. If the defendant, after  
4 diligent investigation, is unable to discover the location of the  
5 identified biological material or to determine whether the  
6 biological material is no longer available, the defendant may  
7 petition the court for a hearing to determine whether the  
8 identified biological material is available. If the court  
9 determines that identified biological material was collected during  
10 the investigation, the court shall order appropriate police  
11 agencies, hospitals, or the medical examiner to search for the  
12 material and to report the results of the search to the court.

13           (4) The court shall order DNA testing if the defendant ~~does~~  
14 ~~all of the following:~~

15           ~~(a) Presents prima facie proof that the evidence sought to be~~  
16 ~~tested is material to the issue of the convicted person's identity~~  
17 ~~as the perpetrator of, or accomplice to, the crime that resulted in~~  
18 ~~the conviction.~~

19           ~~(b) Establishes all of the following by clear and convincing~~  
20 ~~evidence:~~

21           ~~(i) A sample of identified biological material described in~~  
22 ~~subsection (1) is available for DNA testing.~~

23           ~~(ii) The identified biological material described in subsection~~  
24 ~~(1) was not previously subjected to DNA testing or, if previously~~  
25 ~~tested, will be subject to DNA testing technology that was not~~  
26 ~~available when the defendant was convicted.~~

27           ~~(iii) The identity of the defendant as the perpetrator of the~~  
28 ~~crime was at issue during his or her trial.~~**presents prima facie**  
29 **evidence of both of the following:**

1           (a) The biological material sought to be tested is material to  
2 the issue of the convicted defendant's identity as the perpetrator  
3 of, or accomplice to, the crime that resulted in the conviction.

4           (b) A sample of identified biological material is available  
5 for DNA testing.

6           (5) The court shall state its findings of fact on the record  
7 or shall make written findings of fact supporting its decision to  
8 grant or deny a petition brought under this section.

9           (6) If the court grants a petition for DNA testing under this  
10 section, the identified biological material and a biological sample  
11 obtained from the defendant ~~shall~~**must** be subjected to DNA testing  
12 by a laboratory approved by the court. If the court determines that  
13 the applicant is indigent, the cost of DNA testing ordered under  
14 this section ~~shall~~**must** be borne by the state. The results of the  
15 DNA testing ~~shall~~**must** be provided to the court and to the  
16 defendant and the prosecuting attorney. Upon motion by either  
17 party, the court may order that copies of the testing protocols,  
18 laboratory procedures, laboratory notes, and other relevant records  
19 compiled by the testing laboratory be provided to the court and to  
20 all parties.

21           (7) If the results of the DNA testing are inconclusive or show  
22 that the defendant is the source of the identified biological  
23 material, both of the following apply:

24           (a) The court shall deny the motion for new trial.

25           (b) The defendant's DNA profile ~~shall~~**must** be provided to the  
26 department of state police for inclusion under the DNA  
27 identification profiling system act, 1990 PA 250, MCL 28.171 to  
28 28.176.

29           (8) If the results of the DNA testing ~~show that the defendant~~

1 ~~is not the source of the identified biological material, the court~~  
2 ~~shall appoint counsel pursuant to MCR 6.505(A) and hold a hearing~~  
3 ~~to determine by clear and convincing evidence all of the following:~~

4 ~~(a) That only the perpetrator of the crime or crimes for which~~  
5 ~~the defendant was convicted could be the source of the identified~~  
6 ~~biological material.~~

7 ~~(b) That the identified biological material was collected,~~  
8 ~~handled, and preserved by procedures that allow the court to find~~  
9 ~~that the identified biological material is not contaminated or is~~  
10 ~~not so degraded that the DNA profile of the tested sample of the~~  
11 ~~identified biological material cannot be determined to be identical~~  
12 ~~to the DNA profile of the sample initially collected during the~~  
13 ~~investigation described in subsection (1).~~

14 ~~(c) That the defendant's purported exclusion as the source of~~  
15 ~~the identified biological material, balanced against the other~~  
16 ~~evidence in the case, is sufficient to justify the grant of a new~~  
17 ~~trial.~~ **call into question the defendant's identity as the**  
18 **perpetrator, the court shall appoint counsel as provided in MCR**  
19 **6.505(A) and hold a hearing to determine whether the results of the**  
20 **testing, along with any other new evidence, make a different result**  
21 **probable upon retrial.**

22 (9) Upon motion of the prosecutor, the court shall order  
23 retesting of the identified biological material and shall stay the  
24 defendant's motion for new trial pending the results of the DNA  
25 retesting.

26 (10) The court shall state its findings of fact on the record  
27 or make written findings of fact supporting its decision to grant  
28 or deny the defendant a new trial under this section.  
29 Notwithstanding section 3 of this chapter, an aggrieved party may

1 appeal the court's decision to grant or deny the petition for DNA  
2 testing and for new trial by application for leave granted by the  
3 court of appeals.

4 (11) If the name of the victim of the felony conviction  
5 described in subsection (1) is known, the prosecuting attorney  
6 shall give written notice of a petition under this section to the  
7 victim. The notice ~~shall~~**must** be by first-class mail to the  
8 victim's last known address. Upon the victim's request, the  
9 prosecuting attorney shall give the victim notice of the time and  
10 place of any hearing on the petition and shall inform the victim of  
11 the court's grant or denial of a new trial to the defendant.

12 (12) The investigating law enforcement agency shall preserve  
13 any biological material identified during the investigation of a  
14 crime or crimes for which any person may file a petition for DNA  
15 testing under this section. The identified biological material  
16 ~~shall~~**must** be preserved for the period of time that any person is  
17 ~~incarcerated in connection with that case.~~**in the custody of this**  
18 **state, under the jurisdiction of this state, including while**  
19 **-serving a term of probation or parole, or required to register**  
20 **under the sex offenders registration act, 1994 PA 295, MCL 28.721**  
21 **to 28.730.**

22 (13) As used in this section, "biological material" includes  
23 any evidence for which there is a reasonable probability of  
24 containing quantities of DNA from any human body product.