To establish an Office of Forensic Science and a Forensic Science Board, to strengthen and promote confidence in the criminal justice system by ensuring consistency and scientific validity in forensic testing, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the “Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act of 2011”.
(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Purpose.

**TITLE I—STRUCTURE AND OVERSIGHT**

- Sec. 102. Forensic Science Board.
- Sec. 103. Committees.
- Sec. 104. Authorization of appropriations.

**TITLE II—ACCREDITATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES**

- Sec. 201. Accreditation of forensic science laboratories.
- Sec. 203. Administration and enforcement of accreditation program.

**TITLE III—CERTIFICATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE PERSONNEL**

- Sec. 301. Definitions.
- Sec. 302. Certification of forensic science personnel.
- Sec. 303. Standards for certification.
- Sec. 304. Administration and review of certification program.
- Sec. 305. Grants and technical assistance.

**TITLE IV—RESEARCH**

- Sec. 401. Research strategy and priorities.
- Sec. 402. Research grants.
- Sec. 403. Oversight and review.
- Sec. 404. Public-private collaboration.

**TITLE V—STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES**

- Sec. 502. Establishment and dissemination of standards and best practices.
- Sec. 503. Review and oversight.

**TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE AND THE FORENSIC SCIENCE BOARD**

- Sec. 601. Forensic science training and education for judges, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel.
- Sec. 602. Educational programs in the forensic sciences.
- Sec. 603. Medical-legal death examination.
- Sec. 604. Inter-governmental coordination.
- Sec. 605. Anonymous reporting.
- Sec. 606. Interoperability of databases and technologies.
- Sec. 607. Code of ethics.
SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the term “Board” means the Forensic Science Board established under section 102(a);

(2) the term “Committee” means a committee established under section 103(a)(2);

(3) the term “Deputy Director” means the Deputy Director of the Office;

(4) the term “Director” means the Director of the Office;

(5) the term “forensic science discipline” shall have the meaning given that term by the Director in accordance with section 102(h);

(6) the term “forensic science laboratory” shall have the meaning given that term by the Director in accordance with section 201(c);

(7) the term “Office” means the Office of Forensic Science established under section 101(a); and

(8) the term “relevant personnel” shall have the meaning given that term by the Director in accordance with section 301(b).

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to strengthen and promote confidence in the criminal justice system by promoting standards and best practices and ensuring consistency, scientific validity, and accuracy with respect to forensic
testing, analysis, identification, and comparisons, the results of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding.

TITLE I—STRUCTURE AND OVERSIGHT

SEC. 101. OFFICE OF FORENSIC SCIENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established an Office of Forensic Science within the Office of the Deputy Attorney General in the Department of Justice.

(b) OFFICERS AND STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall include—

(A) a Director, who shall be appointed by the Attorney General;

(B) a Deputy Director, who shall be—

(i) an employee of the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(ii) selected by the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(iii) detailed to the Office on a reimbursable basis;

(C) such additional staff detailed on a reimbursable basis from the National Institute of Standards and Technology as the Deputy Di-
rector, in consultation with the Director and
subject to the approval of the Director of the
National Institute of Standards and Techn-
ology, determines appropriate; and

(D) such other officers and staff as the
Deputy Attorney General, the Director, and the
Deputy Director determine appropriate.

(2) DEADLINE.—Not later than 180 days after
the date of enactment of this Act, the initial ap-
pointments, selections, and detailing under para-
graph (1) shall be made.

(c) VACANCY.—In the event of a vacancy in the posi-
tion of Director—

(1) the Attorney General shall designate an act-
ing Director; and

(2) during any period of vacancy before des-
ignation of an acting Director, the Deputy Attorney
General shall serve as acting Director.

(d) LIAISON.—The Director of the National Science
Foundation, in consultation with the Director and the
Deputy Director, shall designate a liaison at the National
Science Foundation to facilitate communication between
the Office and the National Science Foundation.

(e) DUTIES AND AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall—
(A) assist the Board in carrying out all the functions of the Board under this Act and such other related functions as are necessary to perform the functions; and

(B) evaluate and act upon the recommendations of the Board in accordance with paragraph (4).

(2) SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director, in consultation with the Deputy Director, shall—

(A) establish, implement, and enforce accreditation and certification standards under titles II and III;

(B) establish a comprehensive strategy for scientific research in the forensic sciences under title IV;

(C) establish and implement standards and best practices for forensic science disciplines under title V;

(D) define the term “forensic science discipline” for the purposes of this Act in accordance with section 102(h);

(E) establish and maintain a list of forensic science disciplines in accordance with section 102(h);
(F) establish Committees in accordance with section 103;

(G) define the term “forensic science laboratory” for the purposes of this Act in accordance with section 201(c); and

(H) perform all other functions of the Office under this Act and such other related functions as are necessary to perform the functions of the Office described in this Act.

(3) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—The Deputy Director, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall oversee—

(A) the implementation of any standard, protocol, definition, or other material established or amended based on a recommendation by a Committee; and

(B) the work of the Committees.

(4) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon receiving a recommendation from the Board, the Director shall—

(i) give substantial deference to the recommendation; and
(ii) not later than 90 days after the date on which the Director receives the recommendation, determine whether to adopt, modify, or reject the recommendation.

(B) MODIFICATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Director determines to substantially modify a recommendation under subparagraph (A), the Director shall immediately notify the Board of the proposed modification.

(ii) BOARD RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director provides notice to the Board under clause (i), the Board shall submit to the Director a recommendation on whether the proposed modification should be adopted.

(iii) ACCEPTANCE OF MODIFICATION.—If the Board recommends that a proposed modification should be adopted under clause (ii), the Director may implement the modified recommendation.

(iv) REJECTION OF MODIFICATION.—If the Board recommends that a proposed
modification should not be adopted under clause (ii), the Director shall, not later than 10 days after the date on which the Board makes the recommendation—

(I) provide notice and an explanation of the modification proposed to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives; and

(II) begin a rulemaking on the record after opportunity for an agency hearing.

(C) REJECTION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director determines to reject a recommendation under subparagraph (A), the Director shall—

(i) provide notice and an explanation of the decision to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on the Judici-
ary and the Committee on Science and 
Technology of the House of Representa-
tives; and

(ii) begin a rulemaking on the record 
after opportunity for an agency hearing.

(f) WEBSITE.—The Director shall—

(1) establish a website that is publicly acces-
sible; and

(2) publish recommendations of the Board and 
all standards, protocols, definitions, and other mate-
rials established, or amended, by the Director under 
this Act on the website.

SEC. 102. FORENSIC SCIENCE BOARD.

(a) In General.—There is established a Forensic 
Science Board to serve as an advisory board regarding fo-
rensic science in order to strengthen and promote con-
fidence in the criminal justice system by promoting stand-
ards and best practices and ensuring consistency, sci-
entific validity, and accuracy with respect to forensic test-
ing, analysis, identification, and comparisons, the results 
of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used 
during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal 
court proceeding.

(b) Appointment.—
(1) In General.—The Board shall be composed of 19 members, who shall—

(A) be appointed by the President not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(B) come from professional communities that have expertise relevant to and significant interest in the field of forensic science.

(2) Consideration and Consultation.—In making an appointment under paragraph (1), the President shall—

(A) consider the need for the Board to exercise independent scientific judgment;

(B) consider, among other factors, recommendations from leading scientific organizations and leading professional organizations in the field of forensic science and other relevant fields; and

(C) consult with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the—

(i) Committee on the Judiciary and

the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and
• the Committee on the Judiciary
and the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The Board shall include—

(A) not fewer than 10 members who have comprehensive scientific backgrounds, of which—

(i) not fewer than 5 members have extensive experience or background in scientific research; and

(ii) not fewer than 5 members have extensive experience or background in forensic science; and

(B) not fewer than 1 member from each category described in paragraph (4).

(4) CATEGORIES.—The categories described in this paragraph are—

(A) judges;

(B) Federal Government officials;

(C) State and local government officials;

(D) prosecutors;

(E) law enforcement officers;

(F) criminal defense attorneys;
(G) organizations that represent people who may have been wrongly convicted;

(H) practitioners in forensic laboratories;

(I) physicians with relevant expertise; and

(J) State laboratory directors.

(5) FULFILLMENT OF MULTIPLE REQUIREMENTS.—An individual may fulfill more than 1 requirement described in paragraph (3) or (4).

(6) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Director and the Deputy Director shall serve as ex officio and nonvoting members of the Board.

(c) TERMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Board shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Of the members first appointed to the Board—

(A) 6 members shall serve a term of 2 years;

(B) 6 members shall serve a term of 4 years; and

(C) 7 members shall serve a term of 6 years.

(3) RENEWABLE TERM.—A member of the Board may be appointed for not more than a total
of 2 terms, including an initial term described in paragraph (2).

(4) VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a va-

cency, the President may appoint a member to

fill the remainder of the term.

(B) ADDITIONAL TERM.—A member ap-

pointed under subparagraph (A) may be re-

appointed for 1 additional term.

(5) HOLDOVERS.—If a successor has not been

appointed at the conclusion of the term of a member

of the Board, the member of the Board may con-

tinue to serve until—

(A) a successor is appointed; or

(B) the member of the Board is re-

appointed.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Board shall—

(1) make recommendations to the Director re-

lating to research priorities and needs, accreditation

and certification standards, standards and protocols

for forensic science disciplines, and any other issue

consistent with this Act;

(2) monitor and evaluate—
(A) the administration of accreditation, certification, and research programs and procedures established under this Act; and

(B) the operation of the Committees;

(3) review and update, as appropriate, any recommendations made under paragraph (1); and

(4) perform all other functions of the Board under this Act and such other related functions as are necessary to perform the functions of the Board.

(e) CONSULTATION.—The Board shall consult as appropriate with the Deputy Attorney General, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Director of the National Institute of Justice, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior officials from other relevant Federal agencies, and relevant officials of State and local government.

(f) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall hold not fewer than 4 meetings of the full Board each year.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) NOTICE.—The Board shall provide public notice of any meeting of the Board a reasonable period in advance of the meeting.
(B) Open Meetings.—A meeting of the Board shall be open to the public.

(C) Quorum.—A majority of the members of the Board shall be present for a quorum to conduct business.

(g) Votes.—

(1) In General.—Decisions of the Board shall be made by an affirmative vote of not less than 2/3 of the members of the Board voting.

(2) Voting Procedures.—

(A) Recorded.—All votes of the Board shall be recorded.

(B) Remote and Proxy Voting.—If necessary, a member of the Board may cast a vote—

(i) over the phone or through electronic mail or other electronic means if the vote is scheduled to take place during a time other than a full meeting of the Board; and

(ii) over the phone or by proxy if the vote is scheduled to take place during a full meeting of the Board.

(h) Definition of Forensic Science Discipline.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall—

(A) develop a recommended definition of the term “forensic science discipline” for purposes of this Act, which shall encompass disciplines with a sufficient scientific basis that involve forensic testing, analysis, identification, or comparisons, the results of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding;

(B) develop a recommended list of forensic science disciplines for purposes of this Act; and

(C) submit the recommended definition and proposed list of forensic science disciplines to the Director.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In developing a recommended list of forensic science disciplines under paragraph (1)(B), the Board shall consider each field from which courts in criminal cases hear forensic testimony or admit forensic evidence.

(3) EXCLUSION FROM LIST.—If the Board recommends that a field should not be included on the list submitted under paragraph (1) because the field
has insufficient scientific basis on the date of the recommendation of the Board, the Board shall publish an explanation of the recommendation, which—

(A) shall be published on the website of the Board; and

(B) may include a finding that a field could be recognized as a forensic science discipline, based on additional research.

(4) Establishment.—After the Director receives the recommendation of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), establish a definition for the term “forensic science discipline”, and shall establish a list of forensic science disciplines.

(5) Annual Evaluation.—On an annual basis, the Board shall—

(A) evaluate—

(i) whether any field should be added to the list of forensic science disciplines established under paragraph (4); and

(ii) whether any field on the list of forensic science disciplines established under paragraph (4) should be modified or removed; and
(B) submit the evaluation conducted under subparagraph (A), including any recommenda-
tions, to the Director.

(i) STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board may, without re-
gard to the civil service laws and regulations, ap-
point and terminate an executive director and such
other additional personnel as may be necessary to
enable the Board to perform the duties of the
Board.

(2) COMPENSATION.—The Board may fix the
compensation of the executive director and other
personnel appointed under paragraph (1) without re-
gard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter
III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, re-
lating to classification of positions and General
Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for
the executive director and other personnel may not
exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive
Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(3) PERSONNEL AS FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any personnel of the
Board who are employees shall be employees
under section 2105 of title 5, United States
Code, for purposes of chapters 63, 81, 83, 84, 24 85, 87, 89, 89A, 89B, and 90 of that title.

(B) Members of the board.—Subparagraph (A) shall not be construed to apply to members of the Board.

(4) Procurement of temporary and intermittent services.—The Board may procure temporary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

(5) Voluntary services.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Board may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services for the Board as the Board determines necessary.

(j) Reports to Congress.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Board shall submit to Congress a report describing the work of the Board and the work of each Committee, which shall include a description of any recommendations, decisions, and other significant materials generated during the 2-year period.
(k) Applicability of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the Board.

(2) TERMINATION PROVISION.—Section 14(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Board.

(3) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Members of the Board shall serve without compensation for services performed for the Board.

(4) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Board shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Board.

(5) DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER.—In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), the Director shall—

(A) serve as the designated Federal officer;

and

(B) designate a committee management officer for the Board.
SEC. 103. COMMITTEES.

(a) Establishment and Maintenance of Committees.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall issue recommendations to the Director relating to—

(A) the number of Committees that shall be established to examine research needs, standards and best practices, and certification standards for the forensic science disciplines, which shall be—

(i) not fewer than 1; and

(ii) sufficient to allow the Committees to function effectively;

(B) the scope of responsibility for each Committee recommended to be established, which shall ensure that each forensic science discipline is addressed by a Committee;

(C) what the relationship should be between the Committees and any scientific working group or technical working group that has a similar scope of responsibility; and

(D) whether any Committee should consider any field not recognized as a forensic science discipline for the purpose of determining
whether there is research that could be con-
ducted and used to form the basis for estab-
lishing the field as a forensic science discipline.

(2) E STABLISHMENT.—After the Director re-
ceives the recommendations of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director, in coordination with the Deputy Director, shall—

(A) in accordance with section 101(e)(4), establish—

(i) Committees to examine research needs, standards, and best practices, and certification standards for the forensic science disciplines, which shall be not fewer than 1; and

(ii) a clear scope of responsibility for each Committee; and

(B) publish a list of the Committees and the scope of responsibility for each Committee on the website for the Office.

(3) A NNUAL EVALUATION.—The Board, on an annual basis, shall—

(A) evaluate—

(i) whether any new Committees should be established;
(ii) whether the scope of responsibility for any Committee should be modified; and

(iii) whether any Committee should be discontinued;

(B) submit any recommendations relating to the evaluation conducted under subparagraph (A) to the Director and Deputy Director.

(4) UPDATES.—Upon receipt of any recommendations from the Board under paragraph (3), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), determine whether to establish, modify the scope of, or discontinue any Committee.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Committee shall—

(A) consist of not more than 21 members—

(i) each of whom shall be a scientist with knowledge relevant to a forensic science discipline addressed by the Committee; and

(ii) not less than 50 percent of whom shall have extensive experience or background in scientific research;

(B) have a number of members who have extensive experience or background in the fo-
rensic sciences sufficient to ensure that the Committee has an adequate understanding of the factors and needs unique to the forensic sciences; and

(C) have a membership that represents a variety of scientific disciplines, including the forensic sciences.

(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “scientist” includes—

(A) a statistician with a scientific background; and

(B) a physician with expertise in forensic sciences.

(e) APPOINTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Director, in consultation with the Board, shall appoint the members of each Committee.

(2) CONSIDERATION.—In appointing members to a Committee under paragraph (1), the Deputy Director shall consider—

(A) the importance of analysis from scientists with academic backgrounds; and

(B) the importance of input from experienced forensic practitioners.
(3) VACANCIES.—In the event of a vacancy, the Deputy Director, in consultation with the Board, may appoint a member to fill the remainder of the term.

(4) HOLDOVERS.—If a successor has not been appointed at the conclusion of the term of a member of the Committee, the member of the Committee may continue to serve until—

(A) a successor is appointed; or

(B) the member of the Committee is re-appointed.

(d) TERMS.—A member of a Committee shall serve for renewable terms of 4 years.

(e) SUPPORT AND OVERSIGHT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Institute of Standards and Technology shall provide support and staff for each Committee as needed.

(2) DUTIES AND OVERSIGHT.—The Deputy Director shall—

(A) perform periodic oversight of each Committee; and

(B) report any concerns about the performance or functioning of a Committee to the Board and the Director.
(3) Failure to comply.—If a Committee fails to produce recommendations within the time periods required under this Act, the Deputy Director and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall work with the Committee to assist the Committee in producing the required recommendations in a timely manner.

(f) Duties.—

(1) In general.—A Committee shall have the duties and responsibilities set out in this Act, and shall perform any other functions determined appropriate by the Board and the Deputy Director.

(2) Committee decisions and recommendations.—

(A) In general.—A Committee shall submit recommendations and all recommended standards, protocols, or other materials developed by the Committee to the Board for evaluation.

(B) Prohibition of modification of decisions and recommendations.—Any recommendations of a Committee and any recommended standards, protocols, or other materials developed by a Committee may be ap-
proved or disapproved by the Board, but may
not be modified by the Board.

(C) Approval of Decisions and Recommendations.—If the Board approves a rec-
ommendation or recommended standard, proto-
col, or other material submitted by a Com-
mittee under subparagraph (A), the Board shall
submit the recommendation or recommended
standard, protocol, or other material as a rec-
ommendation of the Board, to the Director and
Deputy Director for consideration in accordance
with section 101(e)(4).

(D) Disapproval of Decisions and Rec-
ommendations.—If the Board disapproves of
any recommendation of a Committee or rec-
ommended standard, protocol, or other material
developed by a Committee—

(i) the Board shall provide in writing
the reason for the disapproval of the rec-
ommendation or recommended standard,
protocol, or other material;

(ii) the Committee shall withdraw the
recommendation or recommended stand-
ard, protocol, or other material developed
by the Committee; and
(iii) the Committee may submit a revised recommendation or recommended standard, protocol, or other material.

(g) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A Committee shall hold not fewer than 4 meetings of the full Committee each year.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) NOTICE.—A Committee shall provide public notice of any meeting of the Committee a reasonable period in advance of the meeting.

(B) OPEN MEETINGS.—A meeting of a Committee shall be open to the public.

(C) QUORUM.—A majority of members of a Committee shall be present for a quorum to conduct business.

(h) VOTES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Decisions of a Committee shall be made by an affirmative vote of not less than \( \frac{2}{3} \) of the members of the Committee voting.

(2) VOTING PROCEDURES.—

(A) RECORDED.—All votes taken by a Committee shall be recorded.
(B) REMOTE AND PROXY VOTING.—If necessary, a member of the Committee may cast a vote—

(i) over the phone or through electronic mail if the vote is scheduled to take place during a time other than a full meeting of the Committee; and

(ii) over the phone or by proxy if the vote is scheduled to take place during a full meeting of the Committee.

(i) APPLICABILITY OF THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to a Committee.

(2) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Members of a Committee shall serve without compensation for services performed for the Committee.

(3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of a Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.
SEC. 104. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 for the operation and staffing of the Office;

(2) $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 for the operation and staffing of the Board;

(3) $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 for the operation and staffing of the Committees; and

(4) $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for the oversight, support, and staffing of the Committees.

TITLE II—ACCREDITATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES

SEC. 201. ACCREDITATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date established under subsection (b)(2)(D), a forensic science laboratory may not receive, directly or indirectly, any Federal funds, unless the Director has verified that the laboratory has been accredited in accordance with the standards and procedures established under this title.
(b) Procedures for Accreditation.—

(1) Recommendations.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director—

(A) recommended procedures for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories that are consistent with the recommended standards and criteria developed by the Board under section 202;

(B) recommended procedures for the periodic review and updating of the accreditation status of forensic science laboratories;

(C) recommended procedures for the Director to verify that laboratories have been accredited in accordance with the standards and procedures established under this title, which shall include procedures to implement, administer, and coordinate enforcement of the program for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories; and

(D) a recommendation regarding the date by which forensic science laboratories should—

(i) begin the process of laboratory accreditation; and
(ii) obtain verification of laboratory accreditation to be eligible to receive Federal funds.

(2) Establishment.—After the Director receives the recommendations of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), establish—

(A) procedures for the accreditation of a forensic science laboratory;

(B) procedures for the Director to verify that laboratories have been accredited in accordance with the standards and procedures established under this title;

(C) the date by which a forensic science laboratory shall begin the process of accreditation; and

(D) the date by which a forensic science laboratory shall obtain verification of laboratory accreditation to be eligible to receive Federal funds.

(c) Definition.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall recommend to the Director a definition of the term “forensic science laboratory” for purposes of this
Act, which shall include any laboratory that conduct forensic testing, analysis, identification, or comparisons, the results of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding.

(2) Establishment.—After the Director receives the recommendation of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), establish a definition for the term “forensic science laboratory”.

(d) Applicability to Federal Agencies.—On and after the date established by the Director under subsection (b)(2)(D), a Federal agency may not use any forensic science laboratory during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding unless the forensic science laboratory meets the standards of accreditation and certification established by the Office under this Act.

SEC. 202. STANDARDS FOR LABORATORY ACCREDITATION.

(a) Standards.—

(1) Recommendations.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall, in consultation with qualified professional organizations, submit to the Director re-
ommendations regarding standards for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories, including quality assurance standards, to ensure the quality, integrity, and accuracy of any testing, analysis, identification, or comparisons performed by a forensic science laboratory for use during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding.

(2) Establishment.—After the Director receives the recommendations of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), establish standards for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories.

(3) Requirements.—In recommending or establishing standards under paragraph (1) or (2) the Board and the Director shall—

(A) consider—

(i) whether any relevant national accreditation standards that were in effect before the date of enactment of this Act would be sufficient for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories under this Act; and

(ii) whether any relevant national accreditation standards that were in effect before the date of enactment of this Act
would be sufficient for the accreditation of forensic science laboratories under this Act with supplemental standards; and

(B) include—

(i) educational and training requirements for relevant laboratory personnel;

(ii) proficiency and competency testing requirements for relevant laboratory personnel; and

(iii) maintenance and auditing requirements for accredited forensic science laboratories.

(b) REVIEW OF STANDARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years—

(A) the Board shall—

(i) review the scope and effectiveness of the accreditation standards established under subsection (a);

(ii) submit recommendations to the Director relating to whether, and if so, how to update the standards as necessary to—
(I) account for developments in relevant scientific research and technological advances;

(II) ensure adherence to the standards and best practices established under title V; and

(III) address any other issue identified during the course of the review conducted under clause (i); and

(B) the Director shall, as necessary and in accordance with section 101(e)(4), update the accreditation standards established under subsection (a).

(2) PROCEDURES FOR OPEN AND TRANSPARENT REVIEW OF STANDARDS.—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall establish procedures to ensure that the process for developing, reviewing, and updating accreditation standards under this section—

(A) is open and transparent to the public;

and

(B) includes an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed standards with sufficient prior notice.
SEC. 203. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ACREDITATION PROGRAM.

(a) Administration and Enforcement of Accreditation Program.—

(1) In general.—The Director shall determine whether a forensic science laboratory is eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, Federal funds under section 201(a).

(2) Administration.—

(A) In general.—The Director may identify 1 or more qualified accrediting entities with experience and expertise relevant to the accreditation of forensic science laboratories, the accreditation of a forensic science laboratory by which shall constitute accreditation for purposes of section 201(a).

(B) Oversight.—The Director shall periodically reevaluate whether accreditation by a qualified accrediting entity identified under subparagraph (A) is adequate to ensure compliance with the standards and procedures established under this title.

(C) Reporting.—The Director shall provide regular reports to the Board regarding the accreditation of forensic science laboratories by qualified accrediting entities identified under
subparagraph (A) and reevaluations of accreditation by qualified accrediting entities under subparagraph (B), which shall be published on the website of the Office.

(b) Review of Eligibility.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, the Director shall evaluate whether a forensic science laboratory that has been determined to be eligible to receive Federal funds under section 201(a) remains eligible to receive Federal funds, including whether any accreditation of the forensic science laboratory by a qualified accrediting entity identified under subparagraph (A) is still in effect.

(c) Website.—The Director shall develop and maintain on the website of the Office an updated list of—

(1) the forensic science laboratories that are eligible for Federal funds under section 201(a);

(2) the forensic science laboratories that have been determined to be ineligible to receive Federal funds under section 201(a); and

(3) the forensic science laboratories that are awaiting a determination regarding eligibility to receive Federal funds under section 201(a).
TITLE III—CERTIFICATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE PERSONNEL

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

(a) COVERED ENTITY.—In this title, the term “covered entity” means an entity that—

(1) is not a forensic science laboratory; and

(2) conducts forensic testing, analysis, identification, or comparisons, the results of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding.

(b) RELEVANT PERSONNEL.—

(1) RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director a recommended definition of the term “relevant personnel”, which shall include individuals who—

(A) conduct forensic testing, analysis, identification, or comparisons, the results of which may be interpreted, presented, or otherwise used during the course of a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding; or

(B) testify about evidence prepared by an individual described in paragraph (A).
(2) Definition.—After the Director receives the recommendation of the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), define the term “relevant personnel” for purposes of this title.

SEC. 302. CERTIFICATION OF FORENSIC SCIENCE PERSONNEL.

Except as provided in section 304(c)(2), on and after the date established under section 304(c)(1), a forensic science laboratory or covered entity may not receive, directly or indirectly, any Federal funds, unless all relevant personnel of the forensic science laboratory or covered entity are certified under this title.

SEC. 303. STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATION.

(a) Recommended Standards.—

(1) In General.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which all members of a Committee have been appointed, the Committee shall make recommendations to the Board relating to standards for the certification of relevant personnel in each forensic science discipline addressed by the Committee.

(2) Requirements.—In developing recommended standards under paragraph (1), a Committee shall—
(A) consult with qualified professional organizations;

(B) consider relevant certification standards and best practices developed by qualified professional or scientific organizations;

(C) consider any standards or best practices established under title V; and

(D) consider—

(i) whether certain minimum standards should be established for the education and training of relevant personnel;

(ii) whether there should be an alternative process to enable relevant personnel who were hired before the date established under section 304(c)(1), to obtain certifications, including—

(I) testing that demonstrates proficiency in a specific forensic science discipline that is equal to or greater than the level of proficiency required by the standards for certification; and

(II) a waiver of certain educational and training requirements;
(iii) whether and under what conditions relevant personnel should be allowed to perform an activity described in sub-paragraph (A) or (B) of section 301(b)(1) for a forensic science laboratory or covered entity while the individual obtains the training and education required for certification under the standards developed under this title; and

(iv) whether certification by recognized and relevant medical boards should be sufficient for relevant personnel to meet the standards developed under this title.

(b) Approval or Denial of Recommendations.—The Board shall approve or deny any recommendation submitted by a Committee under subsection (a) in accordance with section 103(f)(2).

(c) Establishment of Standards.—After the Director receives recommendations from the Board under subsection (b), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), establish standards for the certification of relevant personnel.

(d) Review of Standards.—

(1) In general.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, a Committee shall—
(A) review the standards for certification established under subsection (c) for each forensic science discipline within the responsibility of the Committee; and

(B) submit to the Board recommendations regarding updates, if any, to the standards for certification as necessary—

(i) to account for developments in relevant scientific research, technological advances, or changes in the law; and

(ii) to ensure adherence to the uniform standards and best practices established under title V.

(2) BOARD REVIEW.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a Committee submits recommendations under paragraph (1)(B), the Board shall, in accordance with section 103(f)(2)—

(A) consider the recommendations; and

(B) submit to the Director recommendations of uniform standards and best practices for each forensic science discipline.

(3) UPDATES.—After the Director receives recommendations from the Board under paragraph (2), the Director shall, in accordance with section
101(e)(4), update the standards for certification of relevant personnel.

(e) Public Comment.—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall establish procedures to ensure that the process for establishing, reviewing, and updating standards for certification of relevant personnel under this section—

(1) is open and transparent to the public; and

(2) includes an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed standards with sufficient prior notice.

SEC. 304. ADMINISTRATION AND REVIEW OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.

(a) In General.—

(1) Determination.—The Director shall determine whether a forensic science laboratory or covered entity is eligible to receive, directly or indirectly, Federal funds under section 302.

(2) Procedures.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish policies and procedures to implement, administer, and coordinate enforcement of the certification requirements established under this title, including requiring the periodic recertification of relevant personnel.
(b) Administration.—

(1) In general.—After consultation with the Board, the Director may identify 1 or more qualified professional organizations with experience and expertise relevant to the certification of individuals in a particular forensic science discipline, the certification of an individual by which shall constitute certification for purposes of section 302.

(2) Oversight.—The Director shall periodically reevaluate whether certification by a qualified professional organizations identified under paragraph (1) is adequate to ensure compliance with the standards established under this title.

(3) Reporting.—The Director shall provide regular reports to the Board regarding the certification of relevant personnel by qualified professional organizations identified under paragraph (1) and reevaluations of certification by qualified professional organizations under paragraph (2), which shall be published on the website of the Office.

(c) Implementation of Certification Requirements.—

(1) In general.—After consultation with the Board, the Director shall establish the date on which forensic science laboratories and covered entities
shall be in compliance with the certification requirements of this title.

(2) GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director shall, in consultation with the Board and each Committee, establish policies and procedures to enable the gradual implementation of the certification requirements that—

(A) include a reasonable schedule to allow relevant personnel to obtain certifications; and

(B) allow for partial compliance with the requirements of section 302 for a reasonable period of time after the date established under paragraph (1).

(d) REVIEW OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—The Director shall establish policies and procedures for the periodic review of the implementation, administration, and enforcement of the certification requirements established under this title.

SEC. 305. GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institute of Justice, in consultation with the Director, may make grants and provide technical assistance to forensic science laboratories and other entities subject to the requirements under this title and title II to ensure that forensic science laboratories and covered entities are able to
effectively fulfill the responsibilities of the laboratories or entities during the process of—

(1) seeking accreditation under title II; and

(2) obtaining certifications for relevant personnel under this title.

(b) Authorization of Appropriations.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 to the National Institute of Justice for the grant program and technical assistance described in subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Not less than 75 percent of funds appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be used for grants under this section.

(c) Report.—The Director of the National Institute of Justice shall, on an annual basis, submit to the Board and the Director a report that describes—

(1) the application process for grants under this section;

(2) each grant made under this section during the fiscal year before the fiscal year in which the report is submitted; and

(3) as appropriate, the status and results of any grants previously described in a report submitted under this subsection.
TITLE IV—RESEARCH

SEC. 401. RESEARCH STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES.

(a) Comprehensive Research Strategy and Agenda.—

(1) Recommendation.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall recommend to the Director a comprehensive strategy for fostering and improving peer-reviewed scientific research relating to the forensic science disciplines, including research addressing issues of accuracy, reliability, and validity in the forensic science disciplines.

(2) Establishment.—After the Director receives recommendations from the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), establish a comprehensive strategy for fostering and improving peer-reviewed scientific research relating to the forensic science disciplines.

(3) Review.—

(A) Board Review.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, the Board shall—

(i) review the comprehensive strategy established under paragraph (2); and

(ii) recommend any necessary updates to the comprehensive strategy.
(B) UPDATES.—After the Director receives recommendations from the Board under sub-paragraph (A), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), update the comprehensive strategy as necessary and appropriate.

(b) RESEARCH FUNDING PRIORITIES.—

(1) RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall recommend to the Director a list of priorities for forensic science research funding.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—After the Director receives the list from the Board under paragraph (1), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), establish a list of priorities for forensic science research funding.

(3) REVIEW.—Not less frequently than once every 2 years, the Board shall—

(A) review—

(i) the list of priorities established under paragraph (2); and

(ii) the findings of the relevant Committees made under subsection (c); and

(B) recommend any necessary updates to the list of priorities, incorporating, as appro-
priate, the findings of the Committees under subsection (e).

(4) **UPDATES.**—After the Director receives the recommendations under paragraph (3), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), update as necessary the list of research funding priorities.

(e) **EVALUATION OF RESEARCH NEEDS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which all members of a Committee have been appointed under section 103, and periodically thereafter, the Committee shall—

(1) examine and evaluate the scientific research in each forensic science discipline within the responsibility of the Committee;

(2) conduct comprehensive surveys of scientific research relating to each forensic science discipline within the responsibility of the Committee;

(3) examine the research needs in each forensic science discipline within the responsibility of the Committee and identify key areas in which further scientific research is needed; and

(4) develop and submit to the Board a list of research needs and priorities.

(d) **CONSIDERATION.**—In developing the initial research strategy, research priorities, and surveys required under this section, the Board and the Director shall con-
sider any findings, surveys, and analyses relating to re-
search in forensic science disciplines, including those made
by the Subcommittee on Forensic Science of the National
Science and Technology Council.

SEC. 402. RESEARCH GRANTS.

(a) COMPETITIVE GRANTS.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
“eligible entity” means—

(A) a nonprofit academic or research insti-
tution; and

(B) any other entity designated by the Di-
rector of the National Institute of Standards
and Technology.

(2) PEER-REVIEW RESEARCH GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the
National Institute of Standards and Technology
may, on a competitive basis, make grants to eli-
gible entities to conduct peer-reviewed scientific
research.

(B) CONSIDERATION.—In making grants
under this paragraph, the Director of the Na-
tional Institute of Standards and Technology
shall—

(i) ensure that grants made under
this paragraph are for peer-reviewed sci-
entific research in areas that are consistent
with the research priorities established by
the Director under section 401(b); and

(ii) take into consideration the re-
search needs identified by the Committees
under section 401(c).

(3) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES.—
The Director of the National Institute of Standards
and Technology may, on a competitive basis, make
grants to eligible entities to conduct peer-reviewed
scientific research to develop new technologies and
processes to increase the efficiency, effectiveness,
and accuracy of forensic testing procedures.

(4) COORDINATION WITH DIRECTOR.—In mak-
ing grants under this subsection, the Director of the
National Institute of Standards and Technology
shall—

(A) coordinate with the Director; and

(B) consider the plan established under
section 404.

(5) COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL
SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—The Director of the Na-
tional Institute of Standards and Technology shall
consult and coordinate with the National Science
Foundation to ensure—
(A) the integrity of the process for reviewing funding proposals and awarding grants under this subsection; and

(B) that the grant-making process is not subject to any undue bias or influence.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) SUBMISSION.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall, on an annual basis, submit to the Board and the Director a report that describes—

(i) the application process for grants under this section;

(ii) each grant made under this section in the fiscal year before the report is submitted; and

(iii) as appropriate, the status and results of grants previously described in a report submitted under this subsection.

(B) PUBLICATION.—The Director shall publish the report submitted under subparagraph (A) on the website of the Office.

(2) EVALUATION.—The Board and the Director shall evaluate each report submitted under paragraph (1) and consider the information provided in
each report in reviewing the research strategy and
priorities established under section 401.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
are authorized to be appropriated—

(1) $75,000,000 to the National Institute of
Standards and Technology for each of fiscal years
2012 through 2016 for grants under subsection
(a)(2); and

(2) $15,000,000 to the National Institute of
Standards and Technology for each of fiscal years
2012 through 2016 for grants under subsection
(a)(3).

SEC. 403. OVERSIGHT AND REVIEW.

(a) REPORTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date
on which the first grant is awarded under paragraph (2)
or (3) of section 402(a), and not later than 2 years after
the date on which the first report under this subsection
is submitted, the Inspector General of the Department of
Justice, in coordination with the Inspector General of the
Department of Commerce, shall submit to Congress a re-
port on the administration and effectiveness of the grant
programs described in section 402(a).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Each report submitted under
this section shall evaluate—
(1) whether any undue biases or influences af-
icted the integrity of the solicitation, award, or ad-
ministration of research grants; and

(2) whether there was any unnecessary duplica-
tion, waste, fraud, or abuse in the grant-making
process.

SEC. 404. PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION.

(a) RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than 2 years after
the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit
to the Director a recommended plan for encouraging col-
laboration among universities, nonprofit research institu-
tions, State and local forensic science laboratories, private
forensic science laboratories, private corporations, and the
Federal Government to develop and perform cost-effective
and reliable research in the forensic sciences, consistent
with the research priorities established under section
401(b)(2).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The plan recommended under
subsection (a) shall include—

(1) incentives for nongovernmental entities to
invest significant resources into conducting nec-
necessary research in the forensic sciences;

(2) procedures for ensuring the research de-
described in paragraph (1) will be conducted with suf-
icient scientific rigor that the research can be relied upon by—

(A) the Committees in developing standards under this Act; and

(B) forensic science personnel; and

(3) clearly defined requirements for disclosure of the sources of funding by nongovernmental entities for forensic science research conducted in collaboration with governmental entities and safeguards to prevent conflicts of interest or undue bias or influence.

(c) Establishment and Implementation.—After receiving the recommended plan of the Board under subsection (a), the Director shall establish, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), and implement a plan for encouraging collaboration among universities, nonprofit research institutions, State and local forensic science laboratories, private forensic science laboratories, private corporations, and the Federal Government to develop and perform cost-effective and reliable research in the forensic sciences, consistent with the research priorities established under section 401(b)(2).

(d) Oversight.—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall periodically evaluate and, as necessary, update the plan established under subsection (c).
TITLE V—STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES

SEC. 501. DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES.

(a) Committee Recommendations.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which all members of a Committee have been appointed under section 103, the Committee shall develop and recommend to the Board uniform standards and best practices for each forensic science discipline addressed by the Committee, including—

(A) standard protocols;

(B) quality assurance standards; and

(C) standard terminology for use in reporting, including reports of identifications, analyses, or comparisons of forensic evidence that may be used during a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding.

(2) Requirements.—In developing the uniform standards and best practices under paragraph (1), a Committee shall—

(A) as appropriate, consult with qualified professional organizations; and
(B) develop uniform standards and best practices that are designed to ensure the quality and scientific integrity of data, results, conclusions, analyses, and reports that are generated for use in the criminal justice system.

(b) BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a Committee submits recommended uniform standards and best practices under subsection (a), the Board shall, in accordance with section 103(f)(2)—

(1) consider the recommendations; and

(2) submit to the Director recommendations of uniform standards and best practices.

SEC. 502. ESTABLISHMENT AND DISSEMINATION OF STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—After the Board submits uniform standards or best practices for a forensic science discipline under section 501(b), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), establish and disseminate uniform standards and best practices for the forensic science discipline.

(b) PUBLICATION.—The Director shall publish the uniform standards and best practices established under subsection (a) on the website of the Office.
SEC. 503. REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT.

(a) Review by Committees.—

(1) In general.—Not less frequently than once every 3 years, each Committee shall review and, as necessary, recommend to the Board updates to the uniform standards and best practices established under section 502 for each forensic science discipline within the responsibility of the Committee.

(2) Considerations.—In reviewing, and developing recommended updates to, the uniform standards and best practices under paragraph (1), a Committee shall consider—

(A) input from qualified professional organizations;

(B) research published after the date on which the uniform standards and best practices were established, including research conducted under title IV; and

(C) any changes to relevant law made after the date on which the uniform standards and best practices were established.

(b) Board Recommendations.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a Committee submits recommended updates to the uniform standards and best practices under subsection (a), the Board shall, in accordance with section 103(f)(2)—
(1) consider the recommendations; and

(2) recommend to the Director any updates, as necessary, to the uniform standards and best practices established under section 502.

(c) Updates.—After the Director receives recommended updates, if any, under subsection (b), the Director shall, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), update and disseminate the uniform standards and best practices for each forensic science discipline as necessary.

(d) Procedures.—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall establish procedures to ensure that the process for developing, reviewing, and updating the uniform standards and best practices—

(1) is open and transparent to the public; and

(2) includes an opportunity for the public to comment on proposed standards with sufficient prior notice.
TITLE VI—ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICE
OF FORENSIC SCIENCE AND
THE FORENSIC SCIENCE BOARD

SEC. 601. FORENSIC SCIENCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION
FOR JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director a recommended plan for—

(A) supporting the education and training of judges, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel in the forensic sciences and fundamental scientific principles, which shall include education on the competent use and evaluation of forensic science evidence; and

(B) developing a standardized curriculum for education and training described in subparagraph (A).

(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Upon receipt of the recommendation from the Board under paragraph (1),
the Director shall establish, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), and implement a plan for—

(A) supporting the education and training of judges, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel in the forensic sciences and fundamental scientific principles, which shall include education on the competent use and evaluation of forensic science evidence; and

(B) developing a standardized curriculum for education and training described in subparagraph (A).

(3) OVERSIGHT.—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall periodically evaluate and, as necessary, update the plan established under paragraph (2).

(b) GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institute of Justice may, in consultation with the Director—

(A) provide technical assistance directly or indirectly to judges, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel in the forensic sciences and fundamental scientific principles, including the competent use and evaluation of forensic science evidence; and
(B) make grants to States and units of local government and nonprofit organizations or institutions to provide training to judges, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel about the forensic sciences and fundamental scientific principles, including the competent use and evaluation of forensic science evidence.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—On and after the date on which the Director establishes the plan for supporting the education and training of judges, attorneys, and law enforcement personnel in the forensic sciences and fundamental scientific principles under subsection (a)(2), the Director of the National Institute of Justice shall administer the grant program described in paragraph (1) in accordance with the plan.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Institute of Justice $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 for grants and technical assistance under this subsection.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—Not less than 75 percent of the funds appropriated pursuant to
this paragraph shall be used for grants under this subsection.

SEC. 602. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS IN THE FORENSIC SCIENCES.

(a) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director—

(1) a recommended plan for supporting the development of undergraduate and graduate educational programs in the forensic science disciplines and related fields; and

(2) recommendations as to whether the development of standards or requirements for educational programs in the forensic science disciplines and related fields is appropriate.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Upon receipt of the recommendation from the Board under subsection (a), the Director shall establish, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), and implement—

(1) a plan for supporting the development of undergraduate and graduate educational programs in the forensic science disciplines and related fields; and

(2) any standards or requirements for education programs in the forensic science disciplines
and related fields determined by the Director to be appropriate.

(c) OVERSIGHT.—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall—

(1) oversee the implementation of any standards or requirements established under subsection (b); and

(2) periodically evaluate and, as necessary, update the plan, standards, or requirements established under subsection (b).

SEC. 603. MEDICAL-LEGAL DEATH EXAMINATION.

(a) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director—

(1) a recommended plan to encourage the Federal Government and State and local governments to implement systems to ensure that qualified individuals perform medical-legal death examinations and to encourage qualified individuals to enter the field of medical-legal death examination; and

(2) recommendations on whether and how the requirements, standards and regulations established under this Act should apply to individuals who perform medical-legal death examinations.
(b) ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.—Upon receipt of the recommendations from the Board under subsection (a), the Director shall establish, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), and implement—

(1) a plan to encourage the Federal Government and State and local governments to implement systems to ensure that qualified individuals perform medical-legal death examinations and to encourage qualified individuals to enter the field of medical-legal death examination; and

(2) any specific or additional standards or requirements for individuals who perform medical-death examinations determined by the Director to be appropriate.

(c) OVERSIGHT.—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall—

(1) oversee the implementation of any standards or requirements established under subsection (b)(2); and

(2) periodically evaluate and, as necessary, update the plan, standards, and requirements established under subsection (b).

SEC. 604. INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION.

The Board and the Director shall regularly—
(1) coordinate with relevant Federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, and the National Institutes of Health, as appropriate, to make efficient and appropriate use of research expertise and funding; and

(2) coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security and other relevant Federal agencies to determine ways in which the forensic science disciplines may assist in homeland security and emergency preparedness.

SEC. 605. ANONYMOUS REPORTING.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall develop a system for any individual to provide information relating to compliance, or lack of compliance, with the requirements, standards, and regulations established under this Act, which may include a hotline or website that has appropriate guarantees of anonymity and confidentiality and protections for whistleblowers.

SEC. 606. INTEROPERABILITY OF DATABASES AND TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) Recommendations.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director a recommended plan to require interoperability among databases and technologies in each
of the forensic science disciplines among all levels of Government, in all States, and with the private sector.

(b) Establishment and Implementation.—Upon receipt of the recommendation from the Board under subsection (a), the Director shall establish, in accordance with section 101(e)(4), and implement a plan to encourage interoperability among databases and technologies in each of the forensic science disciplines among all levels of Government, in all States, and with the private sector.

(c) Oversight.—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall evaluate and, as necessary, update the plan established under subsection (b).

SEC. 607. CODE OF ETHICS.

(a) Recommendations.—

(1) In general.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board shall submit to the Director a recommended code of ethics for the forensic science disciplines.

(2) Requirements.—In developing a recommended code of ethics under paragraph (1), the Board shall—

(A) consult with relevant qualified professional organizations; and

(B) consider any recommendations relating to a code of ethics or code of professional re-
sponsibility developed by the Subcommittee on Forensic Science of the National Science and Technology Council.

(b) Establishment and Incorporation.—Upon receipt of the recommendation from the Board under subsection (a), the Director shall—

(1) in accordance with section 101(e)(4), establish a code of ethics for the forensic science disciplines; and

(2) as appropriate, incorporate the code of ethics into the standards for accreditation of forensic science laboratories and certification of relevant personnel established under this Act.

(c) Oversight.—The Director, in consultation with the Board, shall periodically evaluate and, as necessary, update the code of ethics established under subsection (b).