



S.F. No. 1067 – Cold Case Homicide Review Process

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The bill provides a process to review and, if warranted, reinvestigate case files of cold case homicides at the request of certain family members.

Section 1, Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms for the purposes of the bill.

Subd. 2. Initial review. Requires law enforcement agencies to review homicide cold case files within their jurisdiction upon receipt of a written application from an immediate family member of the victim. The review must analyze the original investigation and determine whether further witness testimony should be taken or further examination of physical evidence should be conducted. The review must be completed within six months of the request. Upon completion, the agency must notify the family in writing whether the case merits a full reinvestigation. The review may not be conducted by a person who previously investigated the homicide at issue.

Subd. 3. Application. Requires each agency to develop a written application to be used to request a cold case file review.

Subd. 4. Full reinvestigation. Requires a full reinvestigation of the cold case if the initial review determines a reinvestigation is warranted. The reinvestigation may not be conducted by a person who previously investigated the case at issue.

Subd. 5. Consultation and updates. Requires law enforcement agencies to consult with the person requesting the cold case review and reinvestigation, and provide periodic updates of the review and reinvestigation.

Subd. 6. Subsequent reviews. Provides that if a case review determines that a full reinvestigation is not warranted, no additional case file review is required with respect to that case for five years. Similarly, if a full reinvestigation does not lead to a suspect or newly discovered materially significant evidence, no additional file review or reinvestigation is required for five years.

Subd. 7. Withholding information. Authorizes an agency to withhold investigative information that would endanger the safety of any person, impede an ongoing investigation, violate a court order, or violate legal obligations regarding privacy.

Subd. 8. Multiple agencies. Requires multi-agency cooperation and coordination of cold case review and reinvestigation in cases involving more than one law enforcement agency.

Subd. 9. Applicability. Provides that the bill applies to cold case homicides occurring on or after January 1, 1970.

Subd. 10. Annual report. Requires each agency that conducts a cold case review or reinvestigation to submit an activity report to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension on January 30 of each year. By March 15 of each year, the BCA must submit a statewide summary report of cold case activity to the Legislature, as well as publish the report on its website.



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