

Fiscal Analysis: This bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to serve as the Commonwealth's primary resource for research, best practices, and strategies for the implementation of

Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

firearm violence intervention, community-based intervention, and group violence intervention programs designed to reduce violence in communities. It also requires the agency to evaluate state and community-based violence intervention programs and policies that receive funding through the Center, to apply for and accept federal grants, and provide technical assistance.

According to DCJS, in order to carry out the responsibilities outlined in the proposed bill, the agency will need up to nine additional FTE staff. Total personnel expenses for these positions, including fringe benefits, would be approximately \$1,036,750 annually.

- One supervisor to oversee the Center and work with the research analysts to develop comprehensive practices for addressing firearm violence and implementing firearm violence intervention and prevention programs, with applying for federal grants and other applicable sources. This position would have an annual salary of \$90,000, with a total annual cost of \$130,500 including fringe benefits.
- Two research analysts to maintain, analyze, and summarize data. The analysts will assist in operating a statewide firearm violence intervention and prevention research center, which will serve as a clearinghouse for data and firearm violence intervention and prevention programs collected by state and local agencies. These positions would each have an annual salary of \$85,000, with a total annual cost of \$246,500 including fringe benefits.
- Two capacity building and sustainability coordinators to provide technical assistance to localities and community-based organizations to support the establishment of firearm violence intervention and prevention programs, including technical assistance on capacity building, obtaining grant funding, collecting data, and sustaining programs. These positions would each have an annual salary of \$85,000, with a total annual cost of \$246,500 including fringe benefits.
- One program analyst to apply for and manage grants from the federal government or any other source in carrying out the requirement of the proposed Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention. This position would have an annual salary of \$85,000, with a total annual cost of \$123,250 including fringe benefits.
- One criminal justice analyst to establish training standards and publish and periodically update model policies for law enforcement personnel. These model policies will contain, among other subjects, best practices for the service of substantial risk orders and protective orders, the processes for obtaining a firearm from an individual prohibited from possessing one and addressing different types of firearm violence. This position would have an annual salary of \$75,000, with a total annual cost of \$108,750 including fringe benefits.
- One web and publications IT analyst position to fulfill the clearinghouse and information sharing requirements. This position would have an annual salary of \$70,000, with a total annual cost of \$101,500 including fringe benefits.
- One administrative support position to handle various day-to-day administrative functions associated with running the program. This position would each have an annual salary of \$55,000, with a total annual cost of \$79,750 including fringe benefits.

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The bill also requires DCJS to maintain an integrated information system containing data, research, and statistical information regarding firearm violence in the Commonwealth. DCJS does not currently have an information system that could be used to house data for this purpose or for sharing data among state and local agencies. DCJS estimates approximately \$2.5 million in one-time costs in order to develop such a system to collect, integrate, and house this data. The maintenance cost of the new system is estimated to be \$25,000 annually. DCJS would also need additional administrative funds of approximately \$200,000 annually to support training and conference expenses, materials, and travel to sites.

Additionally, the bill requires DCJS to work with the Department of Health (VDH), Department of Social Services (DSS), Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), Department of Education (DOE), and Department of Veterans Services (DVS), to enhance programs and strategies designed to address firearm violence; however, a material fiscal impact is not expected on these agencies. If additional information becomes available, the fiscal impact statement will be revised as necessary.

The proposed legislation also states that all agencies of the Commonwealth are to provide assistance to the Center upon request. The nature of such assistance that may be necessary in the future is unknown. Therefore, it is unknown to what extent this legislation would create a fiscal impact on agencies as they provide assistance to the Center. If additional information becomes available, the fiscal impact statement will be updated as necessary.

Other: The Firearms Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund and the Operation Ceasefire Fund currently managed by DCJS were established by Chapter 2, Special Session I of the 2022 General Assembly. DCJS has been administering those funds since that time. The Office of Safer Communities was established by Chapter 1, Special Session I of the 2023 General Assembly. These current programs have many of the same goals outlined in this bill.

DCJS notes that the proposed Center is duplicative of several existing efforts in place at DCJS, VDH, and universities. For example, VDH currently collects, accesses, uses, and disseminates health-related firearm violence and injury data, including firearm-related assaults, homicides, suicides, and unintentional injuries, and serves as the state agency data steward for those data. The proposed center would duplicate data collection and reporting efforts currently underway at VDH.