

**Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB969 **Patron:** Price

Bill Title: Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Center; established.

Bill Summary: Creates the Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Center within the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). The bill states that the Center will serve as the primary resource for research, best practices, and strategies for the implementation of firearm violence intervention, community-based intervention, and group violence intervention programs designed to reduce violence in communities. The bill also requires that the Center evaluate state and community-based violence intervention programs and policies that receive funding through the Center, apply for and accept federal grants, and provide technical assistance.

The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027, and most of its provisions are subject to funds as may be appropriated.

Explanation: The bill appears to make the establishment of the Center contingent upon funds being appropriated. VDH reports that additional general fund appropriation and four positions would be required to fully comply with the legislation's requirements.

Fiscal Summary: From such funds as may be appropriated, the bill would require VDH to establish and operate the Gun Violence Prevention Center, including building data collection system infrastructure, engaging in data sharing, collection and evaluation, coordinating resources, establishing partnerships and work with state agencies, monitoring fiscal expenditures and managing funds, implementing firearm injury prevention and intervention programs, and assessing the impact of policies and procedures. VDH does not have sufficient resources to absorb these responsibilities. However, it is assumed that VDH would only have to meet such provisions with funding appropriated for such purpose by the General Assembly. The only provision not subject to appropriation is an annual reporting requirement which can be absorbed with existing resources.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
VDH (601)	-	-	\$882,737	\$882,737	\$882,737	\$882,737

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
VDH (601)	-	-	4	4	4	4

Fiscal Analysis: To fully comply with the bill's requirements, VDH would need an appropriation for additional general fund support and four positions. VDH estimates that total personnel costs would be \$469,489 and

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would consist of a program manager, a prevention coordinator, an administrative assistant, and a firearm injury epidemiologist. This estimate assumes that VDH would also leverage an existing epidemiologist position who currently spends approximately 25 percent of their time on firearm injury data dissemination. In addition to staffing, VDH would also require \$413,248 to provide grants, data storage, software licenses, and travel costs. The cost of producing the annual report can be absorbed within existing resources. The total annual cost to implement this bill is estimated to be \$882,737 general fund. Additional detail regarding the VDH costs estimates is provided below.

- The program manager will be responsible for overseeing the Center's activities, including monitoring fiscal expenditures and managing funds, and coordinating with prevention, epidemiology, and information management staff. The program manager will serve as the liaison between the Center, agency, General Assembly, Governor, and the public. VDH anticipates this will be a high-profile Center that will require staff to speak on behalf of the Center frequently. The cost for this position is estimated at \$161,642 including benefits.
- The prevention coordinator will work with the program manager to coordinate the Center's activities, including monitoring of prevention program contracts, building partnerships, developing technical assistance resources, and coordinating prevention and intervention activities and related meetings. The cost for this position is estimated at \$137,057 including benefits.
- The administrative assistant will be responsible for planning and scheduling meetings and assisting with communications that will be released out of the Center, such as funding opportunities to other organizations or launch of data products. The cost for this wage position is estimated at \$63,442 including benefits.
- The firearm injury epidemiologist will provide dedicated epidemiological activities for the Center, including the development and dissemination of data products and reports, fulfilling data requests, and providing ongoing technical assistance and consultation for the Center regarding data sharing, provision, access, and interpretation.
- The development and dissemination of data products and reports would require \$21,166 for cloud storage and \$7,608 for software licenses (Tableau and SAS statistical software).
- To provide 10 organizations up to \$35,000 to support implementation of evidence-informed firearm violence intervention and prevention efforts, including street outreach, hospital-based violence intervention, community-based violence intervention, and group violence intervention programs, VDH would require \$350,000 in general fund support. This amount is scalable depending on the funding provided.
- VDH would require \$7,474 for travel reimbursement to provide technical support to localities and to attend national conferences to develop best practices.

As this bill is assumed to be subject to appropriation, VDH would not proceed with most of the required activities, or incur additional costs, without funding being appropriated.

Other: None