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HOUSE BILL NO. 969

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the House Committee on Public Safety
on February 6, 2026)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Price)

A BILL to direct the Department of Criminal Justice Services to convene a work group to develop policy and legislative recommendations to address firearm violence.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

9 **1. § 1. That the Department of Criminal Justice Services (the Department) shall convene a work group to**
10 develop policy and legislative recommendations to address firearm violence that shall consist of relevant
11 stakeholders, including (i) the Director of the Department of Criminal Justice Services; (ii) the Secretary of
12 Health and Human Resources; (iii) at least one current or former member of the House of Delegates, to be
13 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; (iv) at least one current or former member of the
14 Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; and (v) firearm safety advocates. The work
15 group shall consider and develop practical policy and legislative recommendations for the following goals:
16 (a) working to enhance programs and strategies designed to address firearm violence, including programs
17 that focus on the prevention of suicide or domestic violence in the populations served by such departments;
18 (b) implementing a plan to facilitate coordination between state agencies, localities, and community-based
19 organizations to develop comprehensive practices for addressing firearm violence and implementing
20 firearm violence intervention and prevention programs; (c) identifying best practices for establishing
21 firearm violence intervention and prevention programs, including street outreach, hospital-based violence
22 intervention, community-based violence intervention, and group violence intervention programs; (d) imple-
23 menting a plan for providing technical assistance to localities and community-based organizations to
24 support the establishment of firearm violence intervention and prevention programs, including technical
25 assistance on capacity building, obtaining grant funding, and collecting data; (e) implementing a plan for
26 producing reports and providing analysis and interpretation of statistical information regarding firearm
27 violence, including information on firearm trafficking, crimes involving firearms, mass shootings, suicides,
28 and fatal and nonfatal firearm injuries; and (f) implementing a policy for establishing training standards
29 and publish and periodically updating model policies for law-enforcement personnel containing best
30 practices for (1) the service and execution of substantial risk orders and protective orders, (2) the processes
31 for obtaining a firearm from an individual prohibited from possessing a firearm, and (3) addressing the
32 different types of firearm violence, including unintentional injuries, mass shootings, domestic violence,
33 suicides, homicides, and community violence. The work group shall report its findings and specific
34 legislative and policy recommendations to the General Assembly by October 1, 2026.