

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB602H1

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Price

3. **Committee:** Public Safety

4. **Title:** Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention; Virginia Firearm Violence.

5. **Summary:** Creates the Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention (the Center) within the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund, to be administered by the Center, to replace the existing Virginia Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund. The bill repeals § 9.1-116.6 (Virginia Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund).

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** See Item 8 below.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Item 8).

8. **Fiscal Implications:** 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 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.

Item 408 in Chapter 1 (present Appropriation Act) provides DCJS with two positions and general fund appropriation to support the current program. According to DCJS, in order to carry out the responsibilities outlined in the proposed bill, it will need up to nine additional FTE staff.

DCJS believes it will need a supervisor to oversee the Center. The salary and benefit cost of a supervisor position is \$130,500 annually; two research analysts to maintain, analyze, and summarize data. The salary and benefit cost of a research analyst is \$116,000 annually; a quality assurance and sustainability coordinator to provide technical assistance to localities and community-based organizations. The salary and benefit cost of a coordinator is \$101,500 annually. The agency also believes it needs two grant monitors; however, it is unclear if the two current positions provide grant monitoring. The salary and benefit cost of a grant monitor is \$101,500 annually; one criminal justice analyst to establish training standards, publish and periodically update model policies for law enforcement personnel. The salary

and benefit cost of a criminal justice analyst is \$108,750 annually; one web and publications IT analyst position to fulfill the clearinghouse and information sharing requirements. The salary and benefit cost of an IT analyst position is \$101,500 annually. The agency also believes it needs one administrative support position at an estimated cost of \$79,750 (salary and benefits) annually.

The bill also requires DCJS to maintain an integrated information system containing data, research, and statistical information regarding firearm violence in the Commonwealth. DCJS reports that it 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 to develop such a system to collect, integrate, and house this data. DCJS also believes that it would need additional administrative funds of approximately \$200,000 annually to support training and conference expenses, materials, and travel to sites.

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 the following agencies: VDH, DSS, DBHDS, DOE, and DVS. If additional information is 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 is available, the fiscal impact statement will be updated as necessary.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Criminal Justice Services, state agencies, localities.
- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.
- 11. Other Comments:** See Item 398 N.1.a of the Introduced budget (HB30/SB30). Because the Appropriation Act superseded statutory law, a budget amendment may be needed in order for the bill to have its intended effect.