

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB487

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: McClellan

3. Committee: Judiciary

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

5. Summary: The proposed legislation establishes the Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention (the Center) within the Department of Criminal Justice Services and transfers to the Center the administration of the existing Virginia Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund. The bill also abolishes § 9.1-116.6, pertaining to the Virginia Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30) provides \$14,970,109 the first year and \$12,470,109 the second year from the general fund and thirteen positions to support the Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention. Item 293 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30) also includes \$144,799 the first year and \$142,287 the second year from the general fund and one epidemiologist position to support data collection, surveillance, and data sharing activities at the Virginia Department of Health.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill establishes the Virginia Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund, to be administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and it establishes the Virginia Center for Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention (Center) within DCJS and enumerates the following duties and responsibilities pertaining to the Center:

- It requires 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. DCJS reports that the requirements and responsibilities involved would require a managerial level position to oversee the Center. DCJS states that this position would oversee the development of programs and strategies that focus on firearm violence, synthesizing all the requirements of the proposed legislation. Based on similar positions at the agency, DCJS estimates that this position would cost \$164,495 per year (\$100,000 salary, plus benefits and equipment). This funding is included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).

- It requires DCJS to operate a statewide gun violence intervention and prevention research center, serving as the Commonwealth's clearinghouse for data for firearm violence and firearm violence intervention and prevention programs collected by state and local agencies. DCJS reports that this requirement, and the requirement to produce reports and provide analysis and interpretation of statistical information regarding firearm violence, necessitates at least two research analysts who can maintain, analyze, and summarize the data. DCJS states that based on similar positions at the agency, these positions would cost \$144,799 per year (\$84,000 salary, plus benefits and equipment) each for a total of \$289,598 annually. This funding is included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).
- The bill also requires DCJS to maintain an integrated information system containing data, research, and statistical information of firearm violence in the Commonwealth. DCJS must also facilitate data sharing. DCJS reports that it does not currently collect this data nor does it have an information system that could be used to house data for this purpose or for sharing data among state and local agencies, including local health departments, institutions of higher education, research institutions, hospitals and other medical care facilities, community-based organizations, and law-enforcement agencies. In order to develop such a system to collect, integrate, and house this data, DCJS estimates that it would cost approximately \$2.5 million in one-time costs, based on similar data collection applications previously developed (e.g. FAACT). This funding is included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).
- The proposal would also require DCJS, in conjunction with the Department of Health, Department of Social Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of Education, and Department of Veterans Services, to enhance programs and strategies designed to address firearm violence, including programs that focus on the prevention of suicide or domestic violence in the populations served by such departments. DCJS reports that in order to carry out these responsibilities, a dedicated position that can serve as a Gun Violence Health Policy Advisor is needed to partner with hospitals, increase hospital based gun violence intervention programs, and suicide by gun awareness. Based on similar positions requiring subject matter expertise, DCJS estimates this position would cost \$145,319 per year (\$84,000 salary, plus benefits and equipment). This funding is included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).
- DCJS must coordinate between state agencies, localities, and community-based organizations to develop comprehensive practices for addressing firearm violence and implementing firearm violence intervention and prevention programs. DCJS states that this can be best achieved by continuing to facilitate advisory group meetings as well as holding an annual conference. DCJS regularly hosts and plans conferences for constituents in order to facilitate coordination and share best practices. Based on the cost of similar conferences, DCJS anticipates such an annual conference would cost approximately \$200,000 per year. This funding is included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).

- It would require DCJS to develop and publish best practices for establishing firearm violence intervention and prevention programs. DCJS reports that a dedicated position is needed to assist with carrying out the gun violence intervention and prevention program coordination. This position would help ensure the research and best practices are available to community-based programs, law-enforcement agencies, as well as the general public. Based on similar positions at the agency, DCJS estimates that this position would cost \$138,249 per year (\$75,000 salary, plus benefits and equipment). DCJS also states that inherent in sharing best practices is carrying out training and awareness campaigns to ensure the information is getting to the general public. Thus, the agency would expend an additional \$345,000 annually to host trainings and a media campaign to spread gun violence prevention awareness. This funding is included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).
- DCJS must 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, and collecting data. To fulfill this mandate, DCJS reports that it would need a dedicated Technical Assistance Coordinator, and the cost of this position, based on similar positions at the agency, would be \$138,249 per year (\$75,000 salary, plus benefits and equipment). This funding is included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).
- DCJS must administer the newly created Virginia Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevention Fund (§ 9.1-195) and provide grants from the Fund to local governmental agencies, community-based organizations, and hospitals for the purpose of supporting implementation of evidence-informed firearm violence intervention and prevention efforts, including street outreach, hospital-based violence intervention, and group violence intervention programs. Included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget is \$10 million per year intended to be distributed as grant funds for the purposes outlined above. In order to administer this grant program DCJS reports that it would need 3 grant monitors to evaluate state and community-based violence intervention programs and policies that receive funding through the Center. DCJS states that these positions would provide assistance to grantees and ensure programs are evidence-informed, drawing off of program models that have shown promising results in other jurisdictions. According to DCJS, each position would cost \$119,469 per year (\$63,000 salary, plus benefits and equipment) for a total of \$358,407 annually. Additionally, in order to ensure proper financial accounting and compliance, DCJS states that it would also need a financial expert and a fiscal monitor to assist sub-recipients with financial expertise as well as help agency grant monitors conduct risk assessments and financial audits of grantees. DCJS states that the Financial Services Specialist II position would cost \$144,401 per year (\$80,000 salary, plus benefits and equipment) and the Financial Services Specialist I position would cost \$119,469 per year (\$63,000 salary, plus benefits and equipment), for a total of \$263,870 annually. This funding is included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).
- DCJS must establish training standards and publish and periodically update model policies for law-enforcement personnel containing best practices for (i) the service and

execution of substantial risk orders and protective orders, (ii) the processes for obtaining a firearm from an individual prohibited from possessing a firearm, and (iii) addressing the different types of firearm violence, including unintentional injuries, mass shootings, domestic violence, suicides, homicides, and community violence. DCJS reports that it currently does not have the capacity to take on this workload, and so a dedicated position would be needed to carry this out. Based on similar positions at the agency, DCJS states that such a position would cost \$138,249 per year (\$75,000 salary, plus benefits and equipment). This funding is included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).

- DCJS is required to apply for and accept grants from the United States government or any other source in carrying out the purposes of this article. While DCJS states that it currently applies for federal grants on an ad hoc basis, the agency does not have the capacity to proactively seek such funding in order to comply with this requirement. DCJS reports that it would therefore need a full-time position in order to identify and write competitive grant applications to be able to apply for federal resources for gun violence prevention. DCJS states that, based on positions with similar skill sets, this position would cost \$125,104 per year (\$68,000 salary, plus benefits and equipment). This funding is included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).
- DCJS reports that given the number of positions and funding the previous requirements entail, the agency would need the support of additional administrative staff. Based on current part-time administrative positions, this position is estimated to cost \$26/hr, plus equipment costs, for an annual total of \$43,023. Additionally, in order to support information sharing with the public and IT web developer position would be needed to assist with publishing data online and maintaining the integrated information system. Based on current part-time IT positions, this position is estimated to cost \$45/hr, plus equipment costs, for an annual total of \$71,523. Lastly, a communications coordinator would be needed to support the programmatic staff by developing, reviewing, and finalizing materials and publications for training and conferences. Based on current part-time communications positions, this position is estimated to cost \$30/hr, plus equipment costs, for an annual total of \$49,023. This total amount of \$163,569 in funding to support the administrative function of the Center is included in Item 408 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) reports that the proposed legislation would require funding for an epidemiologist position within the Division of Population Health Data (DPHD) in support of data collection, surveillance, and data sharing activities. VDH states that it currently does not have dedicated resources for the collection of multiple VDH data sources, surveillance, analysis and sharing of these data regarding firearm violence. Therefore, VDH reports the proposed legislation would require dedicating one full-time position, at an annual cost of \$127,939 (\$84,000 for salary and the remainder for fringe benefits). Other costs associated include: VITA (\$2,940) and telecom (\$492) charges; office supplies (\$1,000); laptop accessories and IT peripherals (\$2,512) in the first year; and software maintenance fees and professional development (\$9,916). The total cost estimate in the first year is \$144,799, and \$142,287 in the second year and ongoing. This funding is included in Item 293 of the Introduced Budget (HB30/SB30).

The following state agencies report that no fiscal impact is anticipated as a result of the proposed legislation: Department of Veterans Services, Department of Education, Department of Social Services, and Department of Capitol Police, Department of Forestry, Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Virginia Racing Commission, Department of Historic Resources, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

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: This bill is identical to HB825.