

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission to study the social, physical,*
3 *emotional, and economic effects of gun violence on communities across the Commonwealth. Report.*

4
5 Approved

[S 338]

6 WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for
7 Health Statistics, 4,482 Virginians died by firearm between 2018 and 2021, and the firearm homicide
8 rate in Virginia increased by 21 percent in that time; and

9 WHEREAS, in addition to fatal shootings, gun violence includes other firearm-involved crimes and
10 incidents in which a victim may suffer from non-fatal gunshot wounds, may be shot at but not wounded,
11 or may be threatened with a brandished firearm that is not fired; and

12 WHEREAS, not only does gun violence result in physical harm, it can also lead to long-term adverse
13 effects on the overall health and well-being of individuals, as well as lasting social and economic
14 impacts on communities; and

15 WHEREAS, in order to reduce gun violence and its enduring consequences, it is important to
16 understand the extent of such social, physical, emotional, and economic effects on communities in the
17 Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Joint Legislative Audit and
19 Review Commission be directed to study the social, physical, emotional, and economic effects of gun
20 violence on communities across the Commonwealth.

21 In conducting its study, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall examine the
22 impact of gun violence on (i) the overall physical health of individuals living in affected communities,
23 (ii) the mental and emotional health of individuals living in affected communities, and (iii) the social
24 and economic health of communities impacted by gun violence and shall consider and propose policy
25 recommendations to address gun violence and its effects.

26 All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review
27 Commission for this study, upon request.

28 The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall complete its meetings for the first year by
29 November 30, 2024, and for the second year by November 30, 2025, and the chairman shall submit to
30 the Division of Legislative Automated Systems an executive summary of its findings and
31 recommendations no later than the first day of the next Regular Session of the General Assembly for
32 each year. Each executive summary shall state whether the Joint Legislative Audit and Review
33 Commission intends to submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a report of its findings and
34 recommendations for publication as a House or Senate document. The executive summaries and reports
35 shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for
36 the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's
37 website.