

ESSB 6288 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 03/05/2020

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that firearm
4 violence is a significant public health and safety concern in
5 Washington. From 2014 to 2018, over one thousand people in Washington
6 were murdered and well over half of those victims were murdered with
7 a gun. Thousands more were hospitalized or treated in emergency
8 departments after surviving gunshot injuries. The legislature
9 recognizes that firearm violence in Washington disproportionately
10 impacts low-income communities and communities of color, with young
11 men of color being particularly vulnerable. This violence imposes a
12 high physical, emotional, and financial toll on families and
13 communities across the state. In Washington, the overall estimate of
14 the annual economic cost of gun violence is three billion eight
15 hundred million dollars.

16 The legislature recognizes that rates of suicide have been
17 growing in the United States as well as in the state of Washington.
18 Seventy-nine percent of all firearm deaths in Washington state are
19 suicides. More people die of suicide by firearm than by all other
20 means combined.

21 The legislature intends to establish the Washington office of
22 firearm safety and violence prevention to provide statewide
23 leadership, coordination, and technical assistance to promote
24 effective state and local efforts to reduce preventable injuries and
25 deaths from firearm violence. The office will work with government
26 entities, law enforcement agencies, community-based organizations,
27 and individuals through the state to develop evidence-based policies,
28 strategies, and interventions to reduce the impacts of firearm
29 violence in Washington's communities. The office will also administer
30 the Washington firearm violence intervention and prevention grant
31 program which will provide for intentional, coordinated, and
32 sustained investments in evidence-based violence reduction strategies

1 to reduce the human and financial costs of firearm violence and
2 enhance firearm safety.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
4 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
5 otherwise.

6 (1) "Department" means the department of commerce.

7 (2) "Office" means the Washington office of firearm safety and
8 violence prevention.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington office of firearm
10 safety and violence prevention is created within the department for
11 the purposes of coordinating and promoting effective state and local
12 efforts to reduce firearm violence.

13 (2) The duties of the office include, but are not limited to:

14 (a) Working with law enforcement agencies, county prosecutors,
15 researchers, and public health agencies throughout the state to
16 identify and improve upon available data sources, data collection
17 methods, and data-sharing mechanisms. The office will also identify
18 gaps in available data needed for ongoing analysis, policy
19 development, and the implementation of evidence-based firearm
20 violence intervention and prevention strategies;

21 (b) Researching, identifying, and recommending legislative policy
22 options to promote the implementation of statewide evidence-based
23 firearm violence intervention and prevention strategies;

24 (c) Researching, identifying, and applying for nonstate funding
25 to aid in the research, analysis, and implementation of statewide
26 firearm violence intervention and prevention strategies;

27 (d) Working with the office of crime victim advocacy to identify
28 opportunities to better support victims of firearm violence, a
29 population that is currently underrepresented among recipients of
30 victim services;

31 (e) Contract for a statewide helpline, counseling, and referral
32 services for victims, friends, and family members impacted by gun
33 violence and community professionals and providers who engage with
34 them;

35 (f) Contract with the University of Washington to develop a best
36 practice guide for therapy for gun violence victims;

37 (g) Administering the Washington firearm violence intervention
38 and prevention grant program as outlined in section 6 of this act.

1 (3) The office shall report to the appropriate legislative policy
2 committees by December 1st every odd-numbered year on its progress
3 and findings in analyzing data, developing strategies to prevent
4 firearm violence, and recommendations for additional legislative
5 policy options. The first report must be submitted by December 1,
6 2021.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Subject to the availability of amounts
8 appropriated for this specific purpose, the office shall contract
9 with a level one trauma center in the state of Washington to provide
10 a statewide helpline, counseling, and referral service for victims,
11 friends, and family members impacted by gun violence and community
12 professionals, legal practitioners, health providers, and others who
13 engage with them. The service must be developed in consultation with
14 the office of crime victims advocacy established in RCW 43.280.080,
15 and include the opportunity for brief clinical encounters, problem
16 solving, and referral to the best statewide resources available to
17 meet their needs. The service must become conversant with providers
18 across the state that are trained in evidence-based trauma therapy
19 and establish relationships to ensure specific knowledge of available
20 resources. The office of crime victims advocacy established in RCW
21 43.280.080 must provide consultation within existing resources.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The office shall contract with the
23 University of Washington department of psychiatry and behavioral
24 sciences to develop a best practice guide for therapy for gun
25 violence victims in collaboration with the Harborview center for
26 sexual assault and traumatic stress. The guide must summarize the
27 state of the knowledge in this area and provide recommendations for
28 areas of focus and action that are meaningful and practical for
29 different constituencies. The guide must be made available to the
30 public online and disseminated across the state to appropriate
31 entities including but not limited to medical examiner's offices,
32 prosecuting attorneys, level one and level two trauma centers, and
33 victim support organizations.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The Washington firearm violence
35 intervention and prevention grant program is created to be
36 administered by the office. The purpose of the program is to improve
37 public health and safety by supporting effective firearm violence

1 reduction initiatives in communities that are disproportionately
2 affected by firearm violence including suicides.

3 (2) Program grants shall be used to support, expand, and
4 replicate evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, including
5 hospital-based violence intervention programs, evidence-based street
6 outreach programs, and focused deterrence strategies, that seek to
7 interrupt the cycles of violence, victimization, and retaliation in
8 order to reduce the incidence of firearm violence. These initiatives
9 must be primarily focused on providing violence intervention services
10 to the small segment of the population that is identified as having
11 the highest risk of perpetrating or being victimized by firearm
12 violence.

13 (3) Program grants shall be made on a competitive basis to cities
14 that are disproportionately impacted by violence, to law enforcement
15 agencies in those cities, and to community-based organizations that
16 serve the residents of those cities. Where appropriate, two or more
17 cities may submit joint applications to better address regional
18 problems.

19 (4) An applicant for a program grant shall submit a proposal, in
20 a form prescribed by the office, which must include, but not be
21 limited to, all of the following:

22 (a) Clearly defined and measurable objectives for the grant;

23 (b) A statement describing how the applicant proposes to use the
24 grant to implement an evidence-based firearm violence reduction
25 initiative in accordance with this section;

26 (c) A statement describing how the applicant proposes to use the
27 grant to enhance coordination of existing violence prevention and
28 intervention programs and minimize duplication of services; and

29 (d) Evidence indicating that the proposed firearm violence
30 reduction initiative would likely reduce the incidence of firearm
31 violence.

32 (5) In awarding program grants, the office shall give preference
33 to applicants whose grant proposals demonstrate the greatest
34 likelihood of reducing firearm violence in the applicant's community,
35 without contributing to mass incarceration.

36 (6) Each city that receives a program grant shall distribute no
37 less than fifty percent of the grant funds to one or more of any of
38 the following types of entities:

39 (a) Community-based organizations; and

1 (b) Public agencies or departments that are primarily dedicated
2 to community safety or firearm violence prevention.

3 (7) The office shall form a grant selection advisory committee
4 including, without limitation, persons who have been impacted by
5 violence, formerly incarcerated persons, and persons with direct
6 experience in implementing evidence-based violence reduction
7 initiatives, including initiatives that incorporate public health and
8 community-based approaches.

9 (8) Each grantee shall report to the office, in a form and at
10 intervals prescribed by the office, the grantee's progress in
11 achieving the grant objectives.

12 (9) The office may contract with an independent entity with
13 expertise in evaluating community-based grant-funded programs to
14 evaluate the grant program's effectiveness.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 2 through 6 of this act
16 constitute a new chapter in Title 43 RCW."

17 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Makes a technical correction to a cross-referenced
section.

(2) Provides that grant proposals include a statement on
implementation of a firearm violence reduction initiative as opposed
to a firearm reduction initiative.

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