

**ESSB 6288** - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary

**ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 3/5/20**

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;

40 (b) Indian tribes and tribal organizations; and

1 (c) 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.

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