

HOUSE BILL 583

J1, E4

(4lr4587)

ENROLLED BILL
— Judiciary/Finance —

Introduced by **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Allen, Amprey, Bagnall, Bartlett, Bhandari, Boafo, Charkoudian, Conaway, Crutchfield, Ebersole, Edelson, Fennell, Foley, Forbes, Fraser-Hidalgo, Grossman, Guyton, Guzzone, Harris, Henson, Hill, Ivey, Jackson, S. Johnson, D. Jones, Kaiser, Kaufman, J. Long, Lopez, Love, McCaskill, Mireku-North, Palakovich Carr, Pasteur, Patterson, Phillips, Pruski, Qi, Roberson, Ruff, Ruth, Simmons, Simpson, Solomon, Spiegel, Taveras, Taylor, Toles, Turner, Watson, White Holland, Williams, and Young**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and
4 Intervention in the Maryland Department of Health to reduce firearm violence, harm
5 from firearm violence, and misuse of firearms in the State; and generally relating to
6 the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention.

7 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Article – Health – General
2 Section 13–5201 through 13–5205 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 52. Center
3 for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention”
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2023 Replacement Volume)

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

8 **Article – Health – General**

9 **SUBTITLE 52. CENTER FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND**
10 **INTERVENTION.**

11 **13–5201.**

12 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “CENTER” MEANS THE CENTER FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE**
13 **PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION.**

14 **13–5202.**

15 **(A) THERE IS A CENTER FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND**
16 **INTERVENTION IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

17 **(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE CENTER IS TO REDUCE FIREARM VIOLENCE,**
18 **HARM FROM FIREARM VIOLENCE, AND MISUSE OF FIREARMS IN THE STATE BY**
19 **PARTNERING WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND AFFECTED**
20 **COMMUNITIES TO IMPLEMENT A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO FIREARM VIOLENCE**
21 **REDUCTION.**

22 **13–5203.**

23 **(A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE**
24 **CENTER.**

25 **(B) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT AND REMOVE ALL STAFF IN**
26 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS**
27 **ARTICLE.**

28 **(C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL COORDINATE AND DIRECT ANY**
29 **PLANNING RELATED TO THE CENTER INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

30 **(D) THE CENTER MAY APPLY FOR, RECEIVE, AND SPEND FEDERAL**
31 **GRANTS-IN-AID OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE**

1 DEPARTMENT FOR USE IN CARRYING OUT THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE
2 SECRETARY OR THE DEPARTMENT.

3 13-5204.

4 (A) THE CENTER SHALL:

5 (1) WORK IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
6 CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES OR ANY SUCCESSOR AGENCY,
7 THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT STATE OR LOCAL
8 AGENCY TO ENSURE A ~~WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT~~ MULTIDEPARTMENTAL APPROACH
9 TO REDUCING FIREARM VIOLENCE;

10 (2) SOLICIT AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM, ~~AT A~~
11 ~~MINIMUM:~~

12 (I) COMMUNITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY
13 FIREARM VIOLENCE; ~~AND~~

14 (II) PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS; ~~AND~~

15 (III) INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS WITH EXPERTISE IN
16 FIREARM SAFETY AND TRAINING; AND

17 (IV) ANY OTHER EXPERTS, GROUPS, OR ORGANIZATIONS
18 AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DETERMINES APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY; AND

19 (3) (I) ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2025, SUBMIT A PRELIMINARY
20 STATE PLAN FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO REDUCING FIREARM VIOLENCE
21 TO GUIDE THE WORK OF THE CENTER TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE
22 WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;
23 AND

24 (II) ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2029, AND EVERY 4 YEARS
25 THEREAFTER, SUBMIT A STATE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE
26 REDUCTION USING PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN
27 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL
28 ASSEMBLY.

29 (B) THE CENTER MAY:

30 (1) OFFER TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND
31 LOCAL AGENCIES, HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, AND COMMUNITY AND
32 FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT

1 EVIDENCE-BASED FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION
2 STRATEGIES;

3 (2) ISSUE BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE AND MODEL PROCESSES IN
4 CONSULTATION WITH AFFECTED COMMUNITIES REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF
5 EVIDENCE-BASED FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION
6 STRATEGIES;

7 (3) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME
8 PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES OR ANY SUCCESSOR AGENCY,
9 FACILITATE CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL DATA AND INFORMATION SHARING;

10 (4) CONDUCT PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS;

11 (5) SHARE DATA AND COLLABORATE WITH HIGHER EDUCATION AND
12 RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF FIREARM VIOLENCE;

13 (6) PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED FIREARM
14 VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVES IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT
15 THE STATE; AND

16 (7) ENGAGE IN ANY OTHER ACTIVITY CONSISTENT WITH THE
17 CENTER'S MISSION.

18 13-5205.

19 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
20 GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION
21 SUFFICIENT TO FUND THE CENTER.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.