SENATE BILL 475

J1, E4	4lr4586
	CF 4lr4587

By: The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators Augustine, Beidle, Brooks, Carter, Charles, Elfreth, Ferguson, Gile, Hester, Hettleman, Lam, Rosapepe, Waldstreicher, M. Washington, West, and Zucker Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2024

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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Center for Firearm Violence Prevention – Establishment

- FOR the purpose of establishing the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention in the
 Maryland Department of Health to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm
 violence, and misuse of firearms in the State; and generally relating to the Center
 for Firearm Violence Prevention.
- 7 BY adding to
- 8 Article Health General
- 9 Section 13–5201 through 13–5205 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 52. Center
 10 for Firearm Violence Prevention"
- 11 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 12 (2023 Replacement Volume)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, 14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

- 15 Article Health General
 16 SUBTITLE 52. CENTER FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION.
 17 13-5201.
- IN THIS SUBTITLE, "CENTER" MEANS THE CENTER FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE
 PREVENTION.
- 20 **13–5202.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (A) THERE IS A CENTER FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN THE 2 DEPARTMENT.

3 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE CENTER IS TO REDUCE FIREARM VIOLENCE, 4 HARM FROM FIREARM VIOLENCE, AND MISUSE OF FIREARMS IN THE STATE BY 5 PARTNERING WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND AFFECTED 6 COMMUNITIES TO IMPLEMENT A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO FIREARM VIOLENCE 7 REDUCTION.

8 **13–5203.**

9 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE 10 CENTER.

11 (B) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT AND REMOVE ALL STAFF IN 12 ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS 13 ARTICLE.

14(c) The executive director shall coordinate and direct any15PLANNING RELATED TO THE CENTER INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

16 (D) THE CENTER MAY APPLY FOR, RECEIVE, AND SPEND FEDERAL 17 GRANTS-IN-AID OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE 18 DEPARTMENT FOR USE IN CARRYING OUT THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE 19 SECRETARY OR THE DEPARTMENT.

20 **13–5204.**

21 (A) THE CENTER SHALL:

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

27 (2) SOLICIT AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM, AT A 28 MINIMUM:

29 (I) COMMUNITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY 30 FIREARM VIOLENCE; AND

31 (II) PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS; AND

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1 (3) (I) ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2025, SUBMIT A PRELIMINARY 2 STATE PLAN FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO REDUCING FIREARM VIOLENCE 3 TO GUIDE THE WORK OF THE CENTER TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE 4 WITH § 2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY; 5 AND

6 (II) ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2029, AND EVERY 4 YEARS 7 THEREAFTER, SUBMIT A STATE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE 8 REDUCTION USING PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN 9 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL 10 ASSEMBLY.

11 (B) THE CENTER MAY:

12 (1) OFFER TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND 13 LOCAL AGENCIES, HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, AND COMMUNITY AND 14 FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT 15 EVIDENCE-BASED FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES;

16 (2) ISSUE BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE AND MODEL PROCESSES IN 17 CONSULTATION WITH AFFECTED COMMUNITIES REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF 18 EVIDENCE–BASED FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES;

19 (3) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME 20 PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES OR ANY SUCCESSOR AGENCY, 21 FACILITATE CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL DATA AND INFORMATION SHARING;

22 (4) CONDUCT PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS;

23(5)SHARE DATA AND COLLABORATE WITH HIGHER EDUCATION AND24RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF FIREARM VIOLENCE;

25 (6) PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED FIREARM 26 VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVES IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT 27 THE STATE; AND

28 (7) ENGAGE IN ANY OTHER ACTIVITY CONSISTENT WITH THE 29 CENTER'S MISSION.

30 **13–5205.**

31 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE

1 GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION 2 SUFFICIENT TO FUND THE CENTER.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 4 October 1, 2024.