

SENATE BILL 475

J1, E4

(4lr4586)

ENROLLED BILL
— Finance/Judiciary —

Introduced 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**

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.

President.

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

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 and Intervention”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

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.



(2023 Replacement Volume)

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

Article – Health – General

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

13-5201.

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

13-5202.

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

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

13-5203.

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

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

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

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

13-5204.

1 (A) THE CENTER SHALL:

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

7 (2) SOLICIT AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM, ~~AT A~~
8 ~~MINIMUM:~~

9 (I) COMMUNITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY
10 FIREARM VIOLENCE; ~~AND~~

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

12 (III) INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS WITH EXPERTISE IN
13 FIREARM SAFETY AND TRAINING; AND

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

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

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

26 (B) THE CENTER MAY:

27 (1) OFFER TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND
28 LOCAL AGENCIES, HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, AND COMMUNITY AND
29 FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT
30 EVIDENCE-BASED FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION
31 STRATEGIES;

32 (2) ISSUE BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE AND MODEL PROCESSES IN
33 CONSULTATION WITH AFFECTED COMMUNITIES REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF

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

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

6 (4) CONDUCT PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS;

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

9 (6) PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED FIREARM
10 VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVES IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT
11 THE STATE; AND

12 (7) ENGAGE IN ANY OTHER ACTIVITY CONSISTENT WITH THE
13 CENTER’S MISSION.

14 13-5205.

15 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
16 GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION
17 SUFFICIENT TO FUND THE CENTER.

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.