

HOUSE BILL 223

J1, E4
HB 934/25 – JUD

(PRE-FILED)

6lr1195

By: **Delegate Lopez**

Requested: October 14, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention – Resources, Tools,**
3 **and Educational Materials**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the powers of the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and
5 Intervention to include the creation of certain resources, tools, and educational
6 materials related to firearms; authorizing the Center to consult with State and local
7 agencies and third-party organizations in carrying out those powers; and generally
8 relating to the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and Intervention.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Health – General
11 Section 13–5201 and 13–5202(b)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Health – General
16 Section 13–5204
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Health – General**

22 13–5201.

23 In this subtitle, “Center” means the Center for Firearm Violence Prevention and
24 Intervention.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 13-5202.

2 (b) The purpose of the Center is to reduce firearm violence, harm from firearm
3 violence, and misuse of firearms in the State by partnering with federal, State, and local
4 agencies and affected communities to implement a public health approach to firearm
5 violence reduction.

6 13-5204.

7 (a) The Center shall:

8 (1) Work in consultation with the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention,
9 Youth, and Victim Services or any successor agency, the Maryland State Police, and any
10 other relevant State or local agency to ensure a multidepartmental approach to reducing
11 firearm violence;

12 (2) Solicit and consider recommendations from:

13 (i) Communities disproportionately impacted by firearm violence;

14 (ii) Public health experts;

15 (iii) Individuals or organizations with expertise in firearm safety and
16 training; and

17 (iv) Any other experts, groups, or organizations as the executive
18 director determines appropriate and necessary; and

19 (3) (i) On or before May 1, 2025, submit a preliminary State Plan for a
20 Public Health Approach to Reducing Firearm Violence to guide the work of the Center to
21 the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the
22 General Assembly; and

23 (ii) On or before May 1, 2029, and every 4 years thereafter, submit a
24 State Strategic Plan for Firearm Violence Reduction Using Public Health Strategies to the
25 Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General
26 Assembly.

27 (b) The Center may:

28 (1) Offer training and technical assistance to State and local agencies,
29 health care professionals, and community and faith-based organizations to increase
30 capacity to implement evidence-based firearm violence prevention and intervention
31 strategies;

(2) Issue best practice guidance and model processes in consultation with affected communities regarding implementation of evidence-based firearm violence prevention and intervention strategies;

(3) In consultation with the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services or any successor agency, facilitate cross-jurisdictional data and information sharing;

(4) **(I) Conduct public awareness campaigns AND CREATE RESOURCES, TOOLS, AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS RELATED TO:**

1. THE SECURE STORAGE OF FIREARMS;

2. EXTREME RISK PROTECTIVE ORDERS;

3. SUICIDE PREVENTION, INCLUDING THE 9-8-8 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE; AND

4. ANY OTHER TOPICS THE CENTER DETERMINES APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY TO PROMOTE FIREARM SAFETY IN THE STATE; AND

(II) CONSULT WITH STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND THIRD-PARTY ORGANIZATIONS IN CARRYING OUT THE POWERS ESTABLISHED UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS ITEM;

(5) Share data and collaborate with higher education and research institutions regarding the prevention of firearm violence;

(6) Promote the development of evidence-based firearm violence prevention initiatives in affected communities throughout the State; and

(7) Engage in any other activity consistent with the Center's mission.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.