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A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To establish a Group Violence Intervention Initiative and an organizational structure to guide the efforts of the Initiative; to allow the Metropolitan Police Department to hire civilian personnel to respond to and investigate certain property crimes and cold cases; to require the Sentencing Commission to publish a biannual report on repeat violent offenders in the District; to authorize the Mayor to take corrective actions to remediate criminal blight at properties in the District; and to require the Director of the Department of Healthcare Finance to submit an amendment to the Medicaid state plan to make community violence prevention services available to Medicaid beneficiaries.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Evidence-Based Gun Violence Reduction and Prevention Act of 2025”.

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46 TITLE I. GROUP VIOLENCE INTERVENTION INITIATIVE.

47 Sec. 101. Establishment of group violence intervention initiative.

48 There is established the District of Columbia Group Violence Intervention Initiative  
 49 (“Initiative”). The purpose of the Initiative is to address gun violence in the District by focusing  
 50 law enforcement activities on individuals and groups committing acts of gun violence,  
 51 coordinating enforcement activities across law enforcement agencies, providing robust social  
 52 services and supports to individuals willing to cease criminal activity, and proactively engaging  
 53 residents in communities impacted by gun violence.

54 Sec. 102. Group violence intervention governing board; strategy and implementation  
 55 team.

56 (a) To implement the Initiative, there is established a:

57 (1) Group Violence Intervention Initiative Governing Board (“Governing Board”).

58 The Governing Board shall have final decision-making authority and provide resources to the  
 59 strategy and implementation team as deemed necessary. The Governing Board shall include:

60 (A) The Mayor;

61 (B) The City Administrator; and

62 (C) The Chair of the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

63 (2) Strategy and Implementation Team, which shall report to the Governing Board  
64 on a regular basis to provide progress updates and request resources as needed. The Strategy and  
65 Implementation Team shall handle the daily operations of the Initiative, including making key  
66 decisions, developing strategies, securing resources, and continuously monitoring results.

67 (A) The Strategy and Implementation Team shall be composed of 12  
68 members. Members of the Strategy and Implementation Team shall include:

69 (i) The Director of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention, who  
70 shall serve as the Executive Director;

71 (ii) The Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department, who shall  
72 serve as co-chair;

73 (iii) The Executive Director of the Office of Neighborhood Safety  
74 and Engagement;

75 (iv) The United States Attorney for the District of Columbia;

76 (v) The Attorney General for the District of Columbia;

77 (vi) The Director of the Court Services and Offender Supervision  
78 Agency;

79 (vii) The Director of the Pretrial Services Agency;

80 (viii) Two lieutenants from the Metropolitan Police Department,  
81 selected by the Chief;

82 (ix) Two representatives from community-based organizations with  
83 a demonstrated history of providing social services and supports to individuals who are at high  
84 risk of engaging in gun violence;

85 (x) A researcher with expertise in law enforcement policies and  
86 practices whose work has been published in peer-reviewed journals.

87 Sec. 103. Implementation plan.

88 (a) The Strategy and Implementation Team shall develop an implementation plan for the  
89 initiative. The implementation plan shall, at a minimum, include:

90 (1) How the Initiative will identify individuals and groups responsible for or at  
91 high risk of engaging in gun violence;

92 (2) Key stakeholders, including community members and service providers, who  
93 will be engaged as part of the initiative, including proposed engagement strategies;

94 (3) Protocols for conducting call-ins of individuals who may be subject to focused  
95 enforcement efforts;

96 (4) How the needs of individuals identified by the Strategy and Implementation  
97 Team pursuant to paragraph (1) will be assessed and what services will be offered to these  
98 individuals;

99 (5) Proposed performance measures and data that will be utilized to track the  
100 outcomes of the initiative; and

101 (6) Resources necessary to effectively implement the Initiative.

102 (b) The implementation plan shall be submitted to the Governing Board for approval  
103 within six months of the effective date of this title.

104 Sec. 104. Reporting.

105 (a) On a quarterly basis, the Mayor shall provide a report to the Council that contains data  
106 and analysis of performance measures developed by the Strategy and Implementation Team,  
107 along with any other information deemed relevant.

108 TITLE II. CIVILIAN INVESTIGATORS AT THE METROPOLITAN POLICE  
109 DEPARTMENT.

110 Sec. 201. Civilian investigators.

111 (a) The Metropolitan Police Department is hereby authorized to employ and allow  
112 civilian personnel to investigate the following types of incidents when there is no expected  
113 suspect contact:

- 114 (1) Commercial burglary;
- 115 (2) Residential burglary;
- 116 (3) Motor vehicle theft;
- 117 (4) Theft;
- 118 (5) Forgery;
- 119 (6) Fraud; and
- 120 (7) Other property crime investigations.

121 (b) In addition to the incidents listed in subsection (a) of this section, civilian personnel  
122 may be employed to investigate cold cases.

123 (c) All of the following shall apply to investigators authorized pursuant to subsection (a)  
124 of this section:

- 125 (1) The Metropolitan Police Department shall establish minimum standards for  
126 employment as an investigator;
- 127 (2) Each investigator shall attend a training program designed by the Metropolitan  
128 Police Department;
- 129 (3) Each investigator shall be issued credentials by the Metropolitan Police  
130 Department identifying the individual as a civilian investigator;

131 (4) Investigators shall be issued a uniform that is substantially different in color  
132 and style from that of a sworn officer of the Metropolitan Police Department. The uniform shall  
133 have patches that clearly identify the individual as a civilian investigator, and the individual's  
134 name shall be clearly displayed on the uniform. Investigators shall not be issued badges;

135 (5) Any vehicles issued to or used by an investigator shall not bear markings or  
136 symbols that identify the vehicle as a police cruiser or patrol vehicle. The vehicle may have  
137 emergency equipment and lights installed but shall not use blue lights in any manner or form;

138 (6) Investigators shall not be issued a firearm; and

139 (7) Investigators shall have no authority to arrest.

140 (c) The employment or use of investigators as authorized pursuant to subsection (a) of  
141 this section shall not supplant or replace existing sworn law enforcement personnel or otherwise  
142 cause a reduction in the number of sworn law enforcement officers employed by the  
143 Metropolitan Police Department.

144 TITLE III. BIENNIAL REPEAT VIOLENT OFFENDER REPORT.

145 Sec. 301. Biennial repeat offender report from the Sentencing Commission.

146 (a) On January 1, 2025 and every six months thereafter, the Sentencing Commission of  
147 the District of Columbia shall publish a repeat violent offender report that contains the following:

148 (1) A de-identified list of repeat violent offenders arrested in the prior year. The  
149 list shall include:

150 (A) The date of the arrest;

151 (B) The top charge against the offender;

152 (C) Whether the arrest was papered;

153 (D) For arrests that were papered, the current disposition of the case;

154 (E) The number of prior arrests and convictions for crimes of violence  
155 within the last five years, and the specific charges the individual was arrested and/or convicted of  
156 for each arrest and conviction;

157 (2) An analysis that shows:

158 (A) The number and percentage of arrests and cases filed with the  
159 Superior Court in the prior year involving repeat violent offenders; and

160 (B) The disposition of cases filed with the Superior Court in the year  
161 before the prior year; and

162 (3) Any other information the Commission deems relevant or necessary.

163 (b) The report required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be publicly  
164 accessible through the Commission's website.

165 (c) For purposes of this section, the term:

166 (1) "Crime of violence" means the following crimes when committed with a  
167 firearm:

168 (A) Aggravated assault;

169 (B) Assault with a dangerous weapon;

170 (C) Carjacking,

171 (D) Assault with intent to kill;

172 (E) Kidnapping;

173 (F) Manslaughter;

174 (G) Murder; or

175 (H) Robbery.

176 (2) "Repeat violent offender" means a person who has been arrested for a crime of  
177 violence, as defined in paragraph (1) of this subsection, two or more times in the previous five  
178 years.

179 TITLE IV. ADDRESSING CRIMINAL BLIGHT IN THE DISTRICT.

180 Sec. 401. Definitions.

181 For purposes of this title, the term:

182 (a) "Controlled substance" shall have the same meaning as § 48-901.02(4).

183 (b) "Corrective action" means:

184 (1) Taking specific actions with respect to the buildings or structures on the  
185 property that are reasonably expected to abate criminal blight on such real property, including the  
186 removal, repair, or the securing of any building, wall, structure, or lot; or

187 (2) Changing specific policies, practices, or procedures of the real property owner  
188 that are reasonably expected to abate criminal blight on real property.

189 (c) "Criminal blight" means a condition existing on real property that endangers the  
190 public health or safety of residents of the city and is caused by:

191 (1) The regular presence of, or use of property by, persons illegally possessing,  
192 manufacturing, or distributing controlled substances; or

193 (2) Repeated discharging of a firearm within any building, dwelling, structure, or  
194 lot.

195 (d) "Owner" means the record owner of the real property.

196 (e) "Real property" means real property as defined under § 47-802(1).

197 Sec. 402. Corrective action of criminal blight.



198 (a)(1) Whenever the owner of any real property in the District of Columbia shall fail or  
199 refuse, after the service of reasonable notice pursuant to subsection (b), to correct criminal blight  
200 as identified by the Mayor, the Mayor is authorized to cause such condition to be corrected,  
201 assess the fair market value of the correction of the condition or the actual cost of the correction,  
202 whichever is higher, and all expenses incident thereto as a tax against the property on which the  
203 criminal blight existed or arose.

204 (2) The Mayor may utilize funds from § 42-3131.01(b)(1)(A) for corrective  
205 actions made pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection.

206 (b) The Mayor shall send a notice to the owner of the real property which:

207 (1) Describes the nature of the criminal blight at the real property;

208 (2) Describes the corrective actions that the owner is being requested to take to  
209 remediate criminal blight;

210 (3) Advises that the owner has 30 days from the date of receipt of the notice to  
211 undertake corrective action to abate the criminal blight;

212 (4) States that failure to take corrective actions pursuant to the notice may result  
213 in the District commencing corrective actions, the costs of which will be assessed as a tax against  
214 the property.

215 (c) The Mayor may provide an owner with an additional 30 days to comply with the  
216 notice issued in subsection (b) of this section if:

217 (1) The owner demonstrates that he or she is making a good-faith effort to  
218 comply; and

219 (2) The owner provides sufficient evidence that the inability to comply within 30  
220 days of receipt of the notice is outside of his or her control.

221 (d) A copy of the notice sent to the owner pursuant to subsection (b) of this section shall  
222 be provided to the Advisory Neighborhood Commission in which the property is located.

223 (e) If an owner takes timely corrective action as prescribed in the notice in subsection (b)  
224 of this section, the Mayor shall deem the criminal blight abated and shall promptly provide  
225 written notice to the owner that the criminal blight is abated.

226 (f) If an owner, in good faith, takes corrective action, and despite having taken such  
227 action, the specific criminal blight identified in the notice provided pursuant to subsection (b) of  
228 this section persists, the owner shall be deemed in compliance.

229 Sec. 403. Prioritization of properties.

230 (a) The Mayor shall develop a list of properties at which criminal blight exists. The list  
231 shall be used to prioritize properties for the purposes of sending notices and commencing  
232 corrective action pursuant to section 402 of this title.

233 (b) The list developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall prioritize properties  
234 according to the severity and frequency of criminal blight at the real property. The nature and  
235 severity of criminal blight may be measured by:

236 (1) The number of calls for service to police;

237 (2) Law enforcement intelligence information; or

238 (3) The number of arrests of individuals occupying or present at the property.

239 Sec. 404. Reporting of corrective actions.

240 On an annual basis, the Mayor shall provide the Council of the District of Columbia and  
241 the Attorney General of the District of Columbia with a report that contains the following  
242 information:

- 243 (1) A list of properties at which the Mayor identified criminal blight and provided  
244 notice to the owner;
- 245 (2) A brief description of the criminal blight at each property in the list;
- 246 (3) A brief description of the corrective actions requested by the Mayor at each  
247 property on the list;
- 248 (4) Whether the owner of the real property took timely corrective action; and
- 249 (5) If the owner did not take timely corrective action, the date on which the  
250 District commenced corrective action and the cost of that corrective action.

251 Sec. 405. Availability of other remedies.

252 The provisions of this title shall not limit the availability of other remedies under the law.

253 TITLE V. MEDICAID FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
254 SERVICES.

255 Sec. 501. Definitions.

256 For purposes of this title, the term:

257 (a) “Community violence” means intentional acts of interpersonal violence committed by  
258 individuals who are not intimately related to the victim.

259 (b) “Community violence prevention services” means evidence-informed, trauma-  
260 informed, culturally responsive, supportive, and non-psychotherapeutic services provided by a  
261 qualified violence prevention professional for the purpose of promoting improved health  
262 outcomes, trauma recovery, and positive behavioral change, preventing injury recidivism and  
263 reducing the likelihood that individuals who are victims of violence will commit or promote  
264 violence themselves. “Violence prevention services” may include the provision of peer support  
265 and counseling, mentorship, conflict mediation, crisis intervention, targeted case management,

266 referrals to licensed healthcare professionals or service providers, community and school support  
267 services, and patient education or screening services to victims of community violence.

268 (c) “Director” means the Director of the Department of Healthcare Finance.

269 (d) “Prevention professional” means an individual who works in programs aimed to  
270 address specific patient needs.

271 (e) “Qualified violence prevention professional” means a prevention professional who  
272 meets the qualifications and conditions of section 503 of this title.

273 Sec. 502. Medicaid plan amendment.

274 (a) Within 60 days of the effective date of this title, the Director shall apply to the federal  
275 government for approval of an amendment to the Medicaid state plan to make community  
276 violence prevention services available, to the extent permitted by federal law, to any Medicaid  
277 beneficiary who has:

278 (1) Been exposed to community violence;

279 (2) A personal history of injury sustained as a result of an act of community  
280 violence; and

281 (3) Been referred by a licensed health care provider or social services provider to  
282 receive community violence prevention services from a qualified violence prevention  
283 professional after such provider determines such beneficiary to be at elevated risk of a violent  
284 injury or retaliation resulting from another act of community violence.

285 (b) The Director shall seek any federal approvals necessary to implement this title,  
286 including any federal waivers by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

287 (c) Once federal approval has been applied for pursuant to subsection (a) of this section,  
288 the Director shall, in consultation with violence intervention organizations and community-based  
289 and hospital-based violence prevention programs:

290 (1) Issue guidance on the use of community violence prevention services for  
291 beneficiaries who access these services under the medical assistance program; and

292 (2) Determine the maximum allowable rates for community violence prevention  
293 services based on the medical assistance program fee-for-service outpatient rates for the same or  
294 similar services or any other data deemed reliable and relevant by the Director.

295 Sec. 503. Qualified violence prevention professionals.

296 (a) Within 90 days of the effective date of this title, the Department of Health shall, in  
297 consultation with the Director of the Office of Gun Violence Prevention, approve at least one  
298 governmental or nongovernmental accrediting body with expertise in community violence  
299 prevention services to review and approve training and certification programs for qualified  
300 violence prevention professionals. The accrediting body shall approve programs that such body  
301 determines, in its discretion, will adequately prepare individuals to provide community violence  
302 prevention services to individuals who are victims of community violence. Such programs shall  
303 include at least 35 hours of training and address the following:

304 (1) The effects of trauma and violence;

305 (2) The basics of trauma-informed care;

306 (3) Community violence prevention strategies, including conflict mediation and  
307 retaliation prevention related to community violence, case management, and advocacy practices;

308 and

309 (4) Patient privacy and the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability  
310 Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-191).

311 (b) Any prevention professional seeking certification as a qualified violence prevention  
312 professional shall:

313 (1) Complete at least six months of full-time equivalent experience in providing  
314 community violence prevention services or youth development services through employment,  
315 volunteer work, or as part of an internship experience;

316 (2) Complete the training and certification program approved by the Department  
317 of Health pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for qualified violence prevention  
318 professionals;

319 (3) Complete annually at least four of continuing education by a provider  
320 approved by the Department of Health in the field of community violence prevention services;  
321 and

322 (4) Satisfy any other requirements established by the Department of Health for  
323 certification as a qualified violence prevention professional.

324 (c) Any entity that employs or contracts with a qualified violence prevention professional  
325 to provide community violence prevention services shall:

326 (1) Maintain documentation that the qualified violence prevention professional  
327 has met all of the qualifications and conditions of subsection (b) of this section; and

328 (2) Ensure that the qualified violence prevention professional is providing  
329 services in compliance with any applicable standards of care, rules, regulations, and laws.

330 TITLE VI. FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT; EFFECTIVE DATE.

331 Sec. 601. Fiscal impact statement.

332           The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
333 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
334 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

335           Sec. 602. Effective date.

336           This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
337 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 60-day period of congressional review as  
338 provided in section 602(c)(2) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
339 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(2)), and publication in the District of  
340 Columbia Register.