

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

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

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

18 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “CENTER” MEANS THE CENTER FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE**
19 **PREVENTION.**

20 **13–5202.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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 AND**
24 **RESEARCH 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.