



January 22, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Health (DOH) to submit an annual report on the public health impacts of gun violence on local communities to the General Assembly and each county and municipality in the state. Authorizes DOH to provide a gun safety program to be distributed through hospital emergency departments and primary care centers in order to enable healthcare providers to have non-judgmental conversations with families about firearms kept in the home. Encourages DOH to create a new hospital-based violence intervention program to be implemented in areas with the highest per capita gun violence within each municipality or county to include participation by local constituent groups.

Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop a program for K-12 schools that teaches students methods of nonviolent conflict resolution in collaboration with community organizations.

Requires the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) to provide a report to the DOH biannually with incident-level data on gun-related crime that occurs within the state in order to identify and track areas with the highest per capita gun violence.

Encourages the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD) to create a youth employment program that includes training on the skills needed for employment, including nonviolent conflict resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

The Department of Health

- Based on information provided by the DOH, any fiscal impact related to the potential creation of the violence intervention and gun safety programs is estimated to be not significant.
- Per this legislation, the DOH is required to produce an annual report on the public impacts of gun violence on local communities to include data on the deaths, disabilities, mental illnesses, and economic hardships stemming from gun violence, as well as research-based information from which to make informed decisions on how best to

protect Tennesseans from gun violence. It is assumed DOH can produce this report utilizing existing resources.

The Department of Education

- The DOE is required to develop a program for K-12 schools to teach students strategies and methods of nonviolent conflict resolution.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. 49-6-1007(a), the course of instruction in all public schools must include character education to develop positive values and become good citizens; public schools are also ‘urged to include the use of nonviolence as a means of conflict resolution within character education’.
- Based on information provided by DOE, in addition to the character education curriculum, the department also currently possesses numerous resources and trainings available to help teach nonviolent conflict resolution skills. The DOE could consolidate these various resources and trainings into a single, comprehensive program utilizing existing staff and resources.

The Department of Labor and Workforce Development

- The DLWD is encouraged to create a youth employment program that includes training on the skills needed for employment, including nonviolent conflict resolution.
- Among other adjacent initiatives, the DLWD administers a youth program as part of the *Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act* (WIOA), which is a federal program enacted in 2014.
- The youth program offers a wide range of services to eligible participants between the ages of 14-24 that includes occupational skills training, education, tutoring, mentoring, comprehensive guidance and counseling, and more.
- Although nonviolent conflict resolution is not currently listed as a specific area of focus, it is assumed that the teaching of such methods could be incorporated into existing services available through the WIOA youth program without a need for additional state resources; therefore, any fiscal impact to DLWD to meet the requirements of this legislation is estimated to be not significant.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation

- The TBI is required to provide the DOH biannually with incident-level data on gun-related crime that occurs within the state.
- All local law enforcement agencies across the state are currently required to participate in a crime data sharing program managed by the TBI known as the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System, or TIBRS.
- As part of this participation, local police and sheriff departments currently collect and report incident-level data on criminal offenses involving a firearm.
- The TBI will be required to pull the relevant data from TIBRS and send a report twice per year; it is assumed the TBI can accomplish this with existing personnel and resources

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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