



SB 821 - HB 994

April 20, 2021

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Establishes the Tennessee Violence Intervention Program (TVIP) within the Department of Finance and Administration's (F&A) Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP). Requires the Director of the OCJP to establish, advertise, and administer grants through the TVIP, and hold public forums to determine effectiveness and receive community input on the programs.

Requires the OCJP to award grants from the TVIP on a competitive basis to municipalities, not for-profit health agencies, law enforcement agencies, and nonprofit organizations that serve communities with disproportionately high rates and numbers of homicides and other incidents of violent crime.

Authorizes the OCJP to use up to eight percent of the funds appropriated or made available, or such percentage as may be authorized under program guidelines for funding made available to the TVIP through federal funding sources, for technical assistance and for the costs of implementing and administering the program, including employment of dedicated grants management and program personnel and annual program evaluation and analysis of the effectiveness of violence reduction initiatives.

Requires the OCJP to annually report to the Governor, the Chief Clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives, and the Legislative Librarian on the activities of the program, including a list of the grants awarded under the program, descriptions of the initiatives and impact on the communities served through the grants, and such other information as the office deems appropriate.

Allows the OCJP to seek money from the federal government, private foundations, and any other source to fund the initiative. Allows the OCJP to establish or provide for such additional conditions, limitations, and requirements on the TVIP applicants and grantees as appropriate to promote the purposes of this part and to ensure that any grants relying on federal funding sources or participation are awarded in compliance with federal law.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures – \$70,100/FY21-22
\$69,100/FY22-23 and Subsequent Years

Other Fiscal Impact – The Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) currently receives approximately \$34,273,300 in federal Victims of Crime Acts Assistance (VOCA) funding

and it is assumed that at least five percent or \$1,713,700 would be needed to fund the Tennessee Violence Intervention Program. However, the extent to which VOCA funds or funding from federal, private, or other sources is available and the timing of such funds being received is unknown. Should sources not become available, additional state funds will be necessary or current program funds will be reduced.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (007263): Deletes and rewrites all language after the enacting clause such that the only substantive changes: (1) authorizes the OCJP to create a part-time position for the purpose of establishing, advertising, and administering grants; and (2) establish that this Act is not an appropriation of state funds, and state funds must not be obligated or expended pursuant to this Act unless the state funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$20,800/FY21-22 and Subsequent Years

Other Fiscal Impact – The Office of Criminal Justice Programs (OCJP) currently receives approximately \$34,273,300 in federal Victims of Crime Acts Assistance (VOCA) funding and it is assumed that at least five percent or \$1,713,700 would be needed to fund the Tennessee Violence Intervention Program. However, the extent to which VOCA funds or funding from federal, private, or other sources is available and the timing of such funds being received is unknown. Should sources not become available, additional state funds will be necessary or current program funds will be reduced.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The OCJP cannot accommodate the proposed legislation within existing resources. The OCJP will require one part-time position to establish, advertise, and administer grants through the TVIP, and hold public forums to determine effectiveness and receive community input on the programs.
- The part-time position will be paid \$20 per hour, and will work 20 hours per week.
- The increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$400 (\$20/hour x 20 hours) per week.
- The recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$20,800 (\$400/week x 52 weeks) in FY21-22 and subsequent years.
- According to the OCJP, funding awarded to the state for Victims of Crime Acts Assistance (VOCA) would be the most likely source to seek federal funding for the TVIP. However, the extent to which VOCA funding will be available is unknown as this funding is expected to decrease by 30 percent in each of the next three years.
- The OCJP received \$34,273,320 in VOCA funding in FY20-21.

- The amount of grant funding that will be necessary for OCJP to appropriately administer the requirements of this legislation for the TVIP is unknown. For the purposes of this fiscal analysis, it is assumed that an amount equal to at least five percent of the total VOCA funding received by OCJP, or \$1,713,666 ($\$34,273,320 \times 5.0\%$) will be required.
- The proposed legislation allows for up to eight percent of funds made available for the TVIP, or a percentage authorized under program guidelines for any federal funding, for technical assistance and for the costs of implementing and administering the program.
- The OCJP is authorized to seek money from the federal government, private foundations, and any other source to fund the TVIP. However, the availability and timing of any such funding is unknown.

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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