

SENATE BILL 475

J1, E4

4lr4586
CF HB 583

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

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2024

CHAPTER _____

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.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 IN THIS SUBTITLE, "CENTER" MEANS THE CENTER FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE
2 PREVENTION.

3 **13-5202.**

4 (A) THERE IS A CENTER FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION IN THE
5 DEPARTMENT.

6 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE CENTER IS TO REDUCE FIREARM VIOLENCE,
7 HARM FROM FIREARM VIOLENCE, AND MISUSE OF FIREARMS IN THE STATE BY
8 PARTNERING WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND AFFECTED
9 COMMUNITIES TO IMPLEMENT A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO FIREARM VIOLENCE
10 REDUCTION.

11 **13-5203.**

12 (A) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
13 CENTER.

14 (B) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL APPOINT AND REMOVE ALL STAFF IN
15 ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS
16 ARTICLE.

17 (C) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL COORDINATE AND DIRECT ANY
18 PLANNING RELATED TO THE CENTER INITIATED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

19 (D) THE CENTER MAY APPLY FOR, RECEIVE, AND SPEND FEDERAL
20 GRANTS-IN-AID OR ANY OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE
21 DEPARTMENT FOR USE IN CARRYING OUT THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE
22 SECRETARY OR THE DEPARTMENT.

23 **13-5204.**

24 (A) THE CENTER SHALL:

25 (1) WORK IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
26 CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES OR ANY SUCCESSOR AGENCY,
27 THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE, AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT STATE OR LOCAL
28 AGENCY TO ENSURE A WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO REDUCING
29 FIREARM VIOLENCE;

30 (2) SOLICIT AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS FROM, AT A
31 MINIMUM:

1 (I) COMMUNITIES DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED BY
2 FIREARM VIOLENCE; AND

3 (II) PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS; AND

4 (3) (I) ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2025, SUBMIT A PRELIMINARY
5 STATE PLAN FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO REDUCING FIREARM VIOLENCE
6 TO GUIDE THE WORK OF THE CENTER TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE
7 WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;
8 AND

9 (II) ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2029, AND EVERY 4 YEARS
10 THEREAFTER, SUBMIT A STATE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FIREARM VIOLENCE
11 REDUCTION USING PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN
12 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY.

14 (B) THE CENTER MAY:

15 (1) OFFER TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND
16 LOCAL AGENCIES, HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, AND COMMUNITY AND
17 FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT
18 EVIDENCE-BASED FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES;

19 (2) ISSUE BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE AND MODEL PROCESSES IN
20 CONSULTATION WITH AFFECTED COMMUNITIES REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF
21 EVIDENCE-BASED FIREARM VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIES;

22 (3) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME
23 PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES OR ANY SUCCESSOR AGENCY,
24 FACILITATE CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL DATA AND INFORMATION SHARING;

25 (4) CONDUCT PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS;

26 (5) SHARE DATA AND COLLABORATE WITH HIGHER EDUCATION AND
27 RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS REGARDING THE PREVENTION OF FIREARM VIOLENCE;

28 (6) PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE-BASED FIREARM
29 VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVES IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT
30 THE STATE; AND

31 (7) ENGAGE IN ANY OTHER ACTIVITY CONSISTENT WITH THE

1 **CENTER’S MISSION.**

2 **13-5205.**

3 **FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE**
4 **GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION**
5 **SUFFICIENT TO FUND THE CENTER.**

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.