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Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to gun violence reduction; creating s. 943.6872, F.S.; creating the Urban Core Gun Violence Task Force; requiring the task force to comply with specified requirements; providing for membership; providing for staff support; providing requirements for meetings; specifying duties and powers of the task force; authorizing the task force to seek assistance from state agencies; providing for access to certain information and records; requiring an initial report; authorizing annual reports; providing for repeal of the task force; creating s. 943.6873, F.S.; creating the Florida Firearm Violence Reduction Pilot Program; providing the purpose of the pilot program; providing definitions; providing pilot program eligibility and application requirements; requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to develop and make available a certain application; authorizing the department to provide grants to a specified number of counties to implement the pilot program, subject to appropriation; requiring the department to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program; requiring the department to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature, and to publish the report on its website; authorizing the department to adopt rules; providing county funding requirements for each county participating in the pilot program; requiring each



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28 county participating in the pilot program to appoint a  
29 program steering committee to implement an evidence-  
30 based firearm violence reduction model; requiring each  
31 participating county to submit an annual report to the  
32 department; providing requirements for the report;  
33 providing for expiration of the pilot program;  
34 providing an effective date.

35  
36 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

37  
38 Section 1. Section 943.6872, Florida Statutes, is created  
39 to read:

40 943.6872 Urban Core Gun Violence Task Force.—

41 (1) The Urban Core Gun Violence Task Force, a task force as  
42 defined in s. 20.03, is created within the Department of Law  
43 Enforcement. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the  
44 task force shall comply with the requirements of s. 20.052.

45 (2) (a) The 10-member task force shall convene no later than  
46 September 1, 2020, and must be composed of two members appointed  
47 by each of the following: the President of the Senate, the  
48 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
49 Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of  
50 Representatives, and the Governor. Appointments must be made by  
51 August 1, 2020. The Governor shall appoint a chair from among  
52 the members. Members serve at the pleasure of the officer who  
53 appointed them. A vacancy on the task force must be filled in  
54 the same manner as the original appointment.

55 (b) The General Counsel of the Department of Law  
56 Enforcement shall serve as the general counsel for the task



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57 force.

58 (c) The chair shall assign staff from the Department of Law  
59 Enforcement and the Department of Juvenile Justice to assist the  
60 task force in performing its duties.

61 (d) The task force shall meet on a quarterly basis or at  
62 the call of the chair, as necessary to conduct its work, at a  
63 time and location in this state designated by the chair. The  
64 task force may not conduct its meetings through teleconferences  
65 or other similar means.

66 (3) The task force shall investigate system failures and  
67 the causes of high crime rates and gun violence incidents in  
68 urban core neighborhoods and communities. In addition, the task  
69 force shall develop recommendations for solutions, programs,  
70 services, and strategies for improved interagency communications  
71 between local and state government agencies which will help  
72 facilitate the reduction of crime and gun violence in urban core  
73 neighborhoods and communities.

74 (4) The task force may call upon appropriate state  
75 government agencies for such professional assistance as may be  
76 needed in the discharge of its duties, and such agencies shall  
77 provide such assistance in a timely manner.

78 (5) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the task  
79 force may request and shall be provided with access to any  
80 information or records that pertain to crime and gun violence  
81 incidents in this state's urban core neighborhoods and  
82 communities. Information or records obtained by the task force  
83 which are otherwise exempt or confidential and exempt shall  
84 retain such exempt or confidential and exempt status, and the  
85 task force may not disclose any such information or records.



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86       (6) The task force shall submit an initial report on its  
87 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of  
88 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
89 January 1, 2021, and may issue reports annually thereafter.

90       (7) This section is repealed on June 30, 2023.

91       Section 2. Section 943.6873, Florida Statutes, is created  
92 to read:

93       943.6873 Florida Firearm Violence Reduction Pilot Program.—

94       (1) CREATION.—Beginning July 1, 2020, the Florida Firearm  
95 Violence Reduction Pilot Program is created within the  
96 department for a period of 3 years. The purpose of the pilot  
97 program is to improve public health and safety by supporting  
98 evidence-based firearm violence reduction models in counties  
99 that are disproportionately impacted by firearm violence.

100       (2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

101       (a) "Disproportionately impacted by firearm violence" means  
102 the county experienced 20 or more firearm-related homicides per  
103 calendar year during at least 2 of the 3 calendar years  
104 immediately preceding the application, or the county experienced  
105 at least 10 firearm-related homicides per calendar year and had  
106 a homicide rate that was at least 50 percent higher than the  
107 statewide homicide rate during at least 2 of the 3 calendar  
108 years immediately preceding the application.

109       (b) "Evidence-based firearm violence reduction model" means  
110 a program, proven through empirical evidence, to reduce firearm  
111 violence through focused deterrence or recidivism reduction  
112 strategies.

113       (c) "Program implementation organization" means an  
114 organization with experience implementing an evidence-based



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115 firearm violence reduction model including providing training,  
116 collecting and analyzing data, and conducting program  
117 evaluations.

118 (3) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible  
119 to participate in the pilot program, a county must submit an  
120 application in a form prescribed by the department by October 1,  
121 2020. At a minimum, the application must include:

122 (a) A statement and any empirical evidence indicating that  
123 the county is disproportionately impacted by firearm violence or  
124 otherwise demonstrating the county's compelling need for  
125 additional resources to address the impact of firearm violence.

126 (b) A statement of the estimated fiscal impact of firearm  
127 violence in the county including the costs incurred by the  
128 county investigating, prosecuting, incarcerating, and treating  
129 individuals related to firearm violence in the 3 calendar years  
130 immediately preceding the application.

131 (c) A description of the evidence-based firearm violence  
132 reduction model the county will implement during the pilot  
133 program. A county must implement one of the following evidence-  
134 based firearm violence reduction models: the Group Violence  
135 Intervention program, the Cure Violence program, or a hospital-  
136 based violence intervention program.

137 (d) A statement identifying a program implementation  
138 organization the county will consult to implement the evidence-  
139 based firearm violence reduction model and a description of the  
140 organization's experience implementing such programs.

141 (e) A description of any public or private organization the  
142 county intends to collaborate with to provide services. Such  
143 organizations may include faith-based service groups that offer



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144 community support services including, but not limited to,  
145 substance abuse counseling, mental health counseling, housing  
146 support programs, and employment support programs.

147 (f) A description of the criteria the county will use to  
148 identify eligible participants. A participant must be an  
149 individual who has been identified as being at a high risk for  
150 becoming a victim or perpetrator of firearm violence.

151 (g) A statement describing how the county proposes to  
152 coordinate the evidence-based firearm violence reduction model  
153 and any existing violence prevention and intervention programs  
154 operating in the county to minimize duplication of services.

155 (4) DEPARTMENT DUTIES.-

156 (a) The department shall develop and make available an  
157 application form to be used by counties seeking to participate  
158 in the pilot program.

159 (b) Subject to an appropriation in the General  
160 Appropriations Act, the department shall use program funds to  
161 provide grants for up to six counties to implement the pilot  
162 program. Each county must meet the eligibility and application  
163 requirements provided in subsection (3). The department may  
164 develop other needs-based criteria for pilot program selection  
165 and to determine the appropriate grant amount to award to each  
166 county based on such needs-based criteria.

167 (c) The department shall evaluate the effectiveness of the  
168 pilot program by measuring firearm violence reduction in the  
169 participating counties. The department shall compile the  
170 information required under subsection (5), and by June 30, 2022,  
171 and each June 30 thereafter, submit a report to the Governor,  
172 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of



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173 Representatives on the impact of the pilot program. The  
174 department shall publish the report on its website.

175 (d) The department may adopt rules to administer this  
176 section.

177 (5) DUTIES OF PARTICIPATING COUNTIES.-

178 (a) Each county participating in the pilot program must  
179 contribute \$1 for every \$1 requested from the department. All  
180 funds, whether provided by the county or by the department, must  
181 be used to implement the pilot program.

182 (b) Each county participating in the pilot program shall  
183 appoint a program steering committee which must, at a minimum,  
184 include one representative from each law enforcement agency  
185 located in the county. The program steering committee shall  
186 collaborate with a program implementation organization to  
187 implement an appropriate evidence-based firearm violence  
188 reduction model.

189 (c) To maintain its eligibility for participation in the  
190 pilot program, a county must submit a report to the department  
191 by January 1, 2022, and each January 1 thereafter, in a format  
192 prescribed by the department, the following information:

193 1. A description of the evidence-based firearm violence  
194 reduction model utilized.

195 2. A description of program strategies used to attract and  
196 retain participants.

197 3. A description of the type and quantity of services  
198 provided to participants.

199 4. The total number of participants served and the  
200 demographic characteristics of participants.

201 5. A description of how the services provided improved



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202 participant outcomes, including, but not limited to:  
203 a. Any change in participants' employment status or  
204 educational attainment level.  
205 b. Any change in the frequency of arrests experienced by  
206 participants.  
207 c. Any change in the frequency of victimizations  
208 experienced by participants.  
209 6. Any change in the frequency or severity of firearm  
210 violence experienced by the county, including any increase or  
211 reduction in the number of:  
212 a. Firearm-related arrests.  
213 b. Firearm-related injuries.  
214 c. Other firearm-related law enforcement calls for service.  
215 7. The period for which the data submitted was collected,  
216 aggregated, and analyzed.  
217 (6) EXPIRATION.—This section expires June 30, 2023.  
218 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.