

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to gun violence reduction; creating s.
3 943.6872, F.S.; creating the Urban Core Gun Violence
4 Task Force; requiring the task force to comply with
5 specified requirements; providing for membership;
6 providing for staff support; providing requirements
7 for meetings; specifying duties and powers of the task
8 force; authorizing the task force to seek assistance
9 from state agencies; providing for access to certain
10 information and records; requiring an initial report;
11 authorizing annual reports; providing for repeal of
12 the task force; creating s. 943.6873, F.S.; creating
13 the Florida Firearm Violence Reduction Pilot Program;
14 providing the purpose of the pilot program; defining
15 terms; providing program eligibility and application
16 requirements; authorizing the Department of Law
17 Enforcement to provide grants to a specified number of
18 counties to implement the pilot program, subject to
19 appropriation; requiring the department to evaluate
20 the effectiveness of the pilot program, submit an
21 annual report to the Governor and Legislature, and
22 publish the report on its website; authorizing the
23 department to adopt rules; providing funding
24 requirements; requiring each county participating in
25 the pilot program to appoint a program steering

26 | committee to implement an evidence-based firearm
27 | violence reduction model and to submit an annual
28 | report to the department; providing requirements for
29 | the report; providing for expiration of the pilot
30 | program; providing an effective date.

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32 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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34 | Section 1. Section 943.6872, Florida Statutes, is created
35 | to read:

36 | 943.6872 Urban Core Gun Violence Task Force.—

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

41 | (2) (a) The 10-member task force shall convene no later
42 | than September 1, 2021, and must be composed of two members
43 | appointed by each of the following: the President of the Senate,
44 | the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
45 | Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of
46 | Representatives, and the Governor. Appointments must be made by
47 | August 1, 2021. The Governor shall appoint a chair from among
48 | the members. Members serve at the pleasure of the officer who
49 | appointed them. A vacancy on the task force must be filled in
50 | the same manner as the original appointment.

51 (b) The General Counsel of the Department of Law
52 Enforcement shall serve as the general counsel for the task
53 force.

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

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

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

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

74 (5) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the
75 task force may request and shall be provided with access to any

76 information or records that pertain to crime and gun violence
 77 incidents in this state's urban core neighborhoods and
 78 communities. Information or records obtained by the task force
 79 which are otherwise exempt or confidential and exempt shall
 80 retain such exempt or confidential and exempt status, and the
 81 task force may not disclose any such information or records.

82 (6) The task force shall submit an initial report on its
 83 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of
 84 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by
 85 January 1, 2022, and may issue reports annually thereafter.

86 (7) This section is repealed on June 30, 2024.

87 Section 2. Section 943.6873, Florida Statutes, is created
 88 to read:

89 943.6873 Florida Firearm Violence Reduction Pilot
 90 Program.—

91 (1) CREATION.—Beginning July 1, 2021, the Florida Firearm
 92 Violence Reduction Pilot Program is created within the
 93 department for a period of 3 years. The purpose of the pilot
 94 program is to improve public health and safety by supporting
 95 evidence-based firearm violence reduction models in counties
 96 that are disproportionately impacted by firearm violence.

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

98 (a) "Disproportionately impacted by firearm violence"
 99 means the county experienced 20 or more firearm-related
 100 homicides per calendar year during at least 2 of the 3 calendar

101 years immediately preceding the application, or the county
102 experienced at least 10 firearm-related homicides per calendar
103 year and had a homicide rate that was at least 50 percent higher
104 than the statewide homicide rate during at least 2 of the 3
105 calendar years immediately preceding the application.

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

110 (c) "Program implementation organization" means an
111 organization with experience implementing an evidence-based
112 firearm violence reduction model including providing training,
113 collecting and analyzing data, and conducting program
114 evaluations.

115 (3) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible
116 to participate in the pilot program, a county must submit an
117 application in a form prescribed by the department by October 1,
118 2021. At a minimum, the application must include:

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

123 (b) A statement of the estimated fiscal impact of firearm
124 violence in the county including the costs incurred by the
125 county investigating, prosecuting, incarcerating, and treating

126 individuals related to firearm violence in the 3 calendar years
127 immediately preceding the application.

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

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

138 (e) A description of any public or private organization
139 the county intends to collaborate with to provide services. Such
140 organizations may include faith-based service groups that offer
141 community support services including, but not limited to,
142 substance abuse counseling, mental health counseling, housing
143 support programs, and employment support programs.

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

148 (g) A statement describing how the county proposes to
149 coordinate the evidence-based firearm violence reduction model
150 and any existing violence prevention and intervention programs

151 operating in the county to minimize duplication of services.

152 (4) DEPARTMENT DUTIES.—

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

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

164 (c) The department shall evaluate the effectiveness of the
165 pilot program by measuring firearm violence reduction in the
166 participating counties. The department shall compile the
167 information required under subsection (5), and by June 30, 2023,
168 and each June 30 thereafter, submit a report to the Governor,
169 the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
170 Representatives on the impact of the pilot program. The
171 department shall publish the report on its website.

172 (d) The department may adopt rules to administer this
173 section.

174 (5) DUTIES OF PARTICIPATING COUNTIES.—

175 (a) Each county participating in the pilot program must

176 contribute \$1 for every \$1 requested from the department. All
177 funds, whether provided by the county or by the department, must
178 be used to implement the pilot program.

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

186 (c) To maintain its eligibility for participation in the
187 pilot program, a county must report to the department by January
188 1, 2023, and each January 1 thereafter, in a format prescribed
189 by the department, the following information:

190 1. A description of the evidence-based firearm violence
191 reduction model utilized.

192 2. A description of program strategies used to attract and
193 retain participants.

194 3. A description of the type and quantity of services
195 provided to participants.

196 4. The total number of participants served and the
197 demographic characteristics of participants.

198 5. A description of how the services provided improved
199 participant outcomes, including, but not limited to:

200 a. Any change in participants' employment status or

201 educational attainment level.

202 b. Any change in the frequency of arrests experienced by

203 participants.

204 c. Any change in the frequency of victimizations

205 experienced by participants.

206 6. Any change in the frequency or severity of firearm

207 violence experienced by the county, including any increase or

208 reduction in the number of:

209 a. Firearm-related arrests.

210 b. Firearm-related injuries.

211 c. Other firearm-related law enforcement calls for

212 service.

213 7. The period for which the data submitted was collected,

214 aggregated, and analyzed.

215 (6) EXPIRATION.-This section expires June 30, 2024.

216 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.