

HB 495

2023

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to the Commission on Public Safety in  
3 Urban and Inner-City Communities; providing a short  
4 title; providing legislative findings and intent;  
5 creating the Commission on Public Safety in Urban and  
6 Inner-City Communities; providing for membership and  
7 staff support; providing requirements for meetings;  
8 specifying duties; providing for powers; requiring the  
9 executive director of the Department of Law  
10 Enforcement to issue subpoenas; authorizing the  
11 commission to seek assistance from state agencies and  
12 to access certain exempt or confidential and exempt  
13 information or records; providing requirements for  
14 such access; requiring reports; providing for sunset  
15 of the commission and the repeal of provisions;  
16 authorizing positions and providing an appropriation;  
17 providing an effective date.

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19 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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21 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Public Safety in  
22 Urban and Inner-City Communities Act."

23 Section 2. The Legislature finds that there is a need to  
24 comprehensively address the crisis of crime and gun violence in  
25 Florida's urban and inner-city communities. The Legislature

26 intends to address this crisis by providing cities, counties,  
27 and local and state law enforcement agencies and the courts with  
28 the tools to enhance and promote safe neighborhoods and  
29 communities by enhanced coordination between local and state law  
30 enforcement entities at the state and local level.

31 Section 3. Commission on Public Safety in Urban and Inner-  
32 City Communities.—

33 (1) There is created within the Department of Law  
34 Enforcement the Commission on Public Safety in Urban and Inner-  
35 City Communities, a commission as defined in s. 20.03(10),  
36 Florida Statutes.

37 (2)(a) The commission shall convene no later than  
38 September 1, 2023, and shall be composed of 16 members. Five  
39 members shall be appointed by the President of the Senate, five  
40 members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
41 Representatives, and five members shall be appointed by the  
42 Governor. The chair of the Council on the Social Status of Black  
43 Men and Boys, or his or her designee, shall serve as a member of  
44 the commission. From the members of the commission, the Governor  
45 shall appoint the chair. Appointments must be made by August 1,  
46 2023. The Commissioner of the Department of Law Enforcement, the  
47 Secretary of Juvenile Justice, and the Secretary of Children and  
48 Families shall serve as ex-officio and nonvoting members of the  
49 commission. Members shall serve at the pleasure of the officer  
50 who appointed the member. A vacancy on the commission shall be

51 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

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

55 (c) The Department of Law Enforcement staff and the  
56 Department of Juvenile Justice staff, as assigned by the chair,  
57 shall assist the commission in performing its duties.

58 (d) The commission shall meet on a quarterly basis or as  
59 necessary to conduct its work at the call of the chair and at a  
60 time designated by the chair at locations throughout the state.  
61 The commission may not conduct its meetings through  
62 teleconferences or other similar means.

63 (e) Members of the commission are entitled to receive  
64 reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses pursuant to s.  
65 112.061, Florida Statutes.

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

75 (4) The commission has the power to investigate. The

76 commission may delegate to its investigators the authority to  
77 administer oaths and affirmations.

78 (5) The executive director of the Department of Law  
79 Enforcement shall issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of  
80 witnesses to testify before the commission and the production of  
81 any books, papers, records, documentary evidence, and other  
82 items, including exempt or confidential and exempt information  
83 or records, relevant to the performance of its duties or to the  
84 exercise of its powers. The chair of the commission, or his or  
85 her designee, may administer all oaths and affirmations in the  
86 manner prescribed by law to witnesses who appear before the  
87 commission for the purpose of testifying in any matter of which  
88 the commission desires evidence. In the case of a refusal to  
89 obey a subpoena, the commission may make application to any  
90 circuit court of this state having jurisdiction to order the  
91 witness to appear before the commission and to produce evidence,  
92 if so ordered, or to give testimony relevant to the matter in  
93 question. Failure to obey the order may be punished by the court  
94 as contempt.

95 (6) The commission may call upon appropriate state  
96 agencies for such professional assistance as may be needed in  
97 the discharge of its duties, and such agencies shall provide  
98 such assistance in a timely manner.

99 (7) Notwithstanding any other law, the commission may  
100 request and shall be provided with access to any information or

101 records, including exempt or confidential and exempt information  
102 or records, which pertain to crime and gun violence incidents in  
103 this state's urban and inner-city neighborhoods and communities.  
104 Information or records obtained by the commission that are  
105 otherwise exempt or confidential and exempt shall retain such  
106 exempt or confidential and exempt status, and the commission may  
107 not disclose any such information or records.

108 (8) The commission shall submit an initial report on its  
109 findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of  
110 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by  
111 January 1, 2025, and may issue reports annually thereafter. The  
112 commission shall sunset December 31, 2024, and this section is  
113 repealed on that date.

114 Section 4. For fiscal year 2023-2024, the sum of \$600,000  
115 is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department  
116 of Law Enforcement for the operations of the commission.

117 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.