

By Senator Jones

35-00849-21

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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

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30 program; providing an effective date.

31  
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 as  
38 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 than  
42 September 1, 2021, and must be composed of two members appointed  
43 by each of the following: the President of the Senate, the  
44 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 Law  
55 Enforcement and the Department of Juvenile Justice to assist the  
56 task force in performing its duties.

57 (d) The task force shall meet quarterly or at the call of  
58 the chair, as necessary to conduct its work, at a time and

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59 location in this state designated by the chair. The task force  
60 may not conduct its meetings through teleconferences or other  
61 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 task  
75 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

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88 to read:

89 943.6873 Florida Firearm Violence Reduction Pilot Program.-

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

96 (2) DEFINITIONS.-As used in this section, the term:

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

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

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

114 (3) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; APPLICATIONS.-To be eligible  
115 to participate in the pilot program, a county must submit an  
116 application in a form prescribed by the department by October 1,

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117 2021. At a minimum, the application must include:

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

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

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

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

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

143 (f) A description of the criteria the county will use to  
144 identify eligible participants. A participant must be an  
145 individual who has been identified as being at a high risk for

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146 becoming a victim or perpetrator of firearm violence.

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

151 (4) DEPARTMENT DUTIES.—

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

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

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

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

173 (5) DUTIES OF PARTICIPATING COUNTIES.—

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

199 a. Any change in participants' employment status or  
200 educational attainment level.

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

203 c. Any change in the frequency of victimizations

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204 experienced by participants.

205 6. Any change in the frequency or severity of firearm  
206 violence experienced by the county, including any increase or  
207 reduction in the number of:

208 a. Firearm-related arrests.

209 b. Firearm-related injuries.

210 c. Other firearm-related law enforcement calls for service.

211 7. The period for which the data submitted was collected,  
212 aggregated, and analyzed.

213 (6) EXPIRATION.—This section expires June 30, 2024.

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