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**HOUSE BILL NO. 969**

Offered January 14, 2026

Prefiled January 13, 2026

A *BILL* to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 1 of Title 32.1 an article numbered 6, consisting of a section numbered 32.1-34.4, relating to the Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Center established.

Patrons—Price, Anderson, Anthony, Askew, Bennett-Parker, Carnegie, Carr, Clark, Cole, J.G., Cole, N.T., Cousins, Franklin, M.A., Gardner, Glass, Guzman, Helmer, Henson, Hope, Maldonado, Martinez, Rasoul, Reaser, Schmidt, Shin, Thornton and Tran; Senator: Aird

Referred to Committee on Public Safety

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 1 of Title 32.1 an article numbered 6, consisting of a section numbered 32.1-34.4, as follows:**

*Article 6.*

*Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Center.*

**§ 32.1-34.4. Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Center established; duties.**

A. From such funds as may be appropriated, the Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Center (the Center) is hereby established within the Department. The Center shall:

1. Serve as the Commonwealth's primary resource for research, best practices, and strategies for the implementation of firearm violence intervention, community-based intervention, and group violence intervention programs designed to reduce violence in communities;

2. Operate a statewide firearm violence intervention and prevention research center. The Center shall serve as the Commonwealth's clearinghouse for data regarding firearm violence and firearm violence intervention and prevention programs collected by state and local agencies and shall maintain an integrated information system containing data, research, and statistical information regarding firearm violence in the Commonwealth;

3. Facilitate sharing of data regarding firearm violence and firearm violence intervention and prevention programs among state and local agencies, including local health departments, institutions of higher education, research institutions, hospitals and other medical care facilities, community-based organizations, and law-enforcement agencies;

4. In conjunction with the Department of Criminal Justice Services, Department of Social Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of Education, and Department of Veterans Services, work to enhance programs and strategies designed to address firearm violence, including programs that focus on the prevention of suicide or domestic violence in the populations served by such departments;

5. Facilitate coordination between state agencies, localities, and community-based organizations to develop comprehensive practices for addressing firearm violence and implementing firearm violence intervention and prevention programs;

6. Develop and publish best practices for establishing firearm violence intervention and prevention programs, including street outreach, hospital-based violence intervention, community-based violence intervention, and group violence intervention programs;

7. Provide technical assistance to localities and community-based organizations to support the establishment of firearm violence intervention and prevention programs, including technical assistance on capacity building, obtaining grant funding, and collecting data;

8. From such funds as may be appropriated, provide grants to agencies of local government, community-based organizations, and hospitals for the purpose of supporting implementation of evidence-informed firearm violence intervention and prevention efforts, including street outreach, hospital-based violence intervention, community-based violence intervention, and group violence intervention programs;

9. Evaluate state and community-based violence intervention programs and policies that receive funding through the Center;

10. Produce reports and provide analysis and interpretation of statistical information regarding firearm violence, including information on firearm trafficking, crimes involving firearms, mass shootings, suicides, and fatal and nonfatal firearm injuries;

11. Establish training standards and publish and periodically update model policies for law-enforcement personnel containing best practices for (i) the service and execution of substantial risk orders and protective orders, (ii) the processes for obtaining a firearm from an individual prohibited from possessing a firearm, and (iii) addressing the different types of firearm violence, including unintentional injuries, mass shootings,

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57 *domestic violence, suicides, homicides, and community violence; and*

58 *12. Apply for and accept grants from the United States government or any other source in carrying out*  
59 *the purposes of this article and accept any and all donations, both real and personal, and grants of money*  
60 *from any governmental unit or public agency, or from any institution, person, firm, or corporation, and may*  
61 *receive, utilize, and dispose of the same. Any moneys received pursuant to this section shall be deposited in*  
62 *the state treasury to the account of the Department.*

63 *B. The Center may require and shall receive from every department, division, board, bureau, commission,*  
64 *authority, or other agency created by the Commonwealth, or to which the Commonwealth is a party, or any*  
65 *political subdivision thereof, cooperation and assistance in the performance of its duties. The Center may*  
66 *also consult and exchange information with local government agencies and interested stakeholders,*  
67 *institutions of higher education, research institutions, hospitals and other medical care facilities, and*  
68 *community-based organizations.*

69 *C. The Center shall report annually on or before October 1 to the Governor and the General Assembly.*  
70 *The report shall include a summary of activities for the year and any recommendations to address firearm*  
71 *violence within the Commonwealth. The Department shall ensure that such report is available to the public.*

72 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective on July 1, 2027.**