STATE OF NEW YORK

9905

IN SENATE

September 9, 2024

Introduced by Sen. MYRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to establishing the office of gun violence prevention and the gun violence advisory council

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The executive law is amended by adding a new section 837-y to read as follows:

§ 837-y. Office of gun violence prevention and the gun violence advisory council. 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Advisory council" means the gun violence advisory council established under subdivision three of this section.

(b) "Director" means the director of the office.

(c) "Gun violence" includes homicide, violent crime, domestic violence, attempted suicide, suicide, and unintentional death or injury involving a firearm.

(d) "Office" means the office of gun violence prevention established under subdivision two of this section.

2. Office of gun violence prevention. (a) The office of gun violence prevention established under Executive Order 211 of 2021 is hereby established within the division. The office shall:

(i) centralize and coordinate grantmaking opportunities and allocations to government and community stakeholders regarding gun violence and gun violence prevention.

(ii) in conjunction with the advisory council, enhance the current hospital capacity by standardizing hospital violence intervention enhancement functions.

(iii) strengthen current data infrastructure and research by focusing on data informed surveillance, prevention, and intervention of gun violence statewide.

(iv) increase public awareness through conducting public awareness campaigns in collaboration with government and community stakeholders

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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and provide resources and training to healthcare professionals regarding gun violence and gun violence prevention.

(v) maintain an open channel of communication with the legislature by providing recommendations and legal review functions for best practices and programs regarding gun violence and gun violence prevention.

(b) The head of the office of gun violence shall be the director who shall be appointed by the commissioner. The director shall:

(i) in consultation with the advisory council, coordinate, integrate, and maximize the efficacy of each responsibility, program, and service relating to gun violence prevention administered by the state, including but not limited to centralizing and coordinating grantmaking opportunities.

(ii) in consultation with the advisory council, evaluate laws, regulations, programs, offices, data sources, data infrastructure, data research, and grant programs relating to gun violence prevention administered by the state to assess how each such law, regulation, program, office, data source, and grant program can be maximized, modernized, and coordinated to reduce gun violence.

(iii) in consultation with the advisory council and in collaboration with the department of health, center for environmental health's bureau of occupational health and injury prevention, office of public health's bureau of surveillance and data systems, and office of quality and patient safety's center for health data integration, strengthen data systems to support ongoing data-informed surveillance, prevention, and intervention of gun violence statewide, by:

(A) utilizing existing datasets to enhance the data landscape with the longer term goal, sufficient resources permitting, of creating a robust syndromic surveillance system for firearm-related injuries for the state.

(B) utilizing syndromic surveillance to identify clusters in non-fatal suicide attempts and drug overdoses resulting in increased outreach efforts and interventions within the identified area.

(C) hiring a data analyst to work specifically with center for environmental health's bureau of occupational health and injury prevention, office of public health's bureau of surveillance and data systems, and office of quality and patient safety's center for health data integration to manage the data, maintain the outputs, and analyze trends to disseminate findings to key stakeholders working to prevent or respond to firearm injuries.

(D) assessing ongoing research efforts by the state relating to gun violence to establish a comprehensive research agenda on the causes and solutions of gun violence and providing legislative recommendations.

(E) hiring a full research and evaluation unit to support this data infrastructure effort.

(F) building a dashboard to make data publicly accessible. Such dashboard shall disseminate public health and public safety gun violence-related data to the public with an emphasis on equity and social determinants of health.

(iv) coordinate with state agencies and commissions that have jurisdiction over gun violence prevention.

(v) recommend to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly actions which can be taken to promote evidence-based gun violence prevention strategies, including the implementation or amendment of any laws, regulations, and/or grant programs.

(vi) centralize coordination and communication regarding government grantmaking opportunities and allocations to community and government

stakeholders including, but not limited to, once per quarter, publicize on the division's website all state and federal grant opportunities, allocations and awards for gun violence prevention.

(vii) enhance hospital capacity for victims of gun violence by:

(A) standardizing hospital violence intervention programs;

(B) providing capacity building and technical assistance to community-based organizations, hospitals, and violence prevention professionals providing hospital violence intervention program services to align with the current law;

(C) providing funding for technical assistance and capacity building to meet training and certification requirements; and

(D) expanding the integration of individual-level firearm risk assessment screening into existing clinical encounters in health care settings to provide clinicians the tools to promote various prevention strategies and provide tailored interventions including, but not limited to, safe storage of firearms education materials, distribution of gun locks, extreme risk protection order training and educational materials, lethal means counseling and safety planning training, and referrals to mental health resources, interpersonal violence resources, community-based organizations, and community violence prevention programs.

(viii) in consultation with the advisory council, educate the general public about gun violence by conducting and prioritizing outreach and public awareness campaigns regarding:

(A) state and federal laws and regulations relating to gun violence prevention. Such outreach and public awareness campaigns shall include, but not be limited to, conducting trainings and awareness campaigns on secure storage of firearms and suicide prevention; extreme risk orders of protection; violence is a public health issue; and gun violence awareness month.

(B) state and federal grant opportunities to non-profits, hospitals and health care institutions, school districts, and victim service providers located in communities disproportionately impacted by gun violence.

(c) The director shall issue a report including, but not limited to, information on the state of gun violence in the state, recommendations for policy initiatives and legislation to reduce gun violence in the state, and a description of the efforts of the director to carry out the duties under this subdivision. Such report shall be delivered to the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of the assembly no later than one year after the effective date of this section, and annually thereafter. Such report shall be published on the division's website.

3. Gun violence advisory council. (a) Within one hundred eighty days of the effective date of this section, the commissioner shall convene the gun violence advisory council to share information and resources to support and collaborate with communities, health systems, law enforcement, and government stakeholders. Such advisory council shall be chaired by the director and shall include no less than twelve additional members selected by the director, including:

(i) a survivor of gun violence.

(ii) a community violence intervention service provider.

(iii) a local public health official.

(iv) a medical professional who provides trauma care.

(v) a mental health clinician.

(vi) a district attorney.

(vii) a teacher.

(viii) a member of a student group.
(ix) a veteran.
(x) any state legislative representatives and any representative from a political subdivision of the state who wishes to participate in the operations of the advisory council.
(b) The advisory council shall:
(i) coordinate with the office and local communities on:
(A) grant opportunities and allocations;
(B) hospital enhancement functions;
(C) data infrastructure and research; and
(D) public awareness campaigns, resources, and trainings.
(ii) visit communities impacted by gun violence and provide an integrated, multidisciplinary overview of the public safety, health, employment, and educational resources that are available to reduce violence and increase opportunities for youth and families.
(iii) share information on available programs and resources with communities impacted by gun violence.
(iv) coordinate with communities to identify and remove barriers to programs and resources.
(v) collaborate with community based organizations to align and maximize resources toward serving persons while maximizing the impact on children and young adults.
(vi) create opportunities through the use of new and established investments and programs that will have real, tangible results in communities that have been historically underserved.
(vii) expand programs to meet the needs of children and young adults.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.