STATE OF NEW YORK

2084

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 15, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. CHANDLER-WATERMAN -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

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. New York state 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 New York state office of gun violence prevention.

(c) "Gun violence" includes but is not limited to any attempted crime, crime, attempted suicide, suicide, and unintentional injury or death involving a firearm.

(d) "Office" means the New York state 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 created under Executive Order 211 of 2021 is hereby reestablished within the division. The office shall:

(i) direct the coordination of state, local, and federal government stakeholders and the advisory council to align and advance efforts to prevent and address gun violence impacting state residents.

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

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

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(iii) direct and enhance the state's health systems capacity to prevent and respond to gun violence, including but not limited to state hospital violence prevention initiatives. State and local community violence intervention initiatives and programs.

(iv) direct and strengthen timely data collection and data infrastructure and research regarding firearm-related injuries, fatalities, and incidents by focusing on data informed surveillance, prevention, and intervention of gun violence statewide including but not limited to the coordination with the state gun violence research institute.

(v) increase public awareness of gun violence and gun violence prevention by conducting public education campaigns and utilizing other strategies to increase knowledge and adoption of best practices related to gun violence prevention, the various types of gun violence that impact New York state, and resources available to individuals at risk of or who have been impacted by gun violence. These campaigns and strategies shall be designed in collaboration with government and community stakeholders including but not limited to agencies and offices referenced in paragraph (c) of subdivision three of this section.

(vi) direct and provide technical assistance, resources, and training to professionals focused on violence intervention and prevention strategies and best practices.

(vii) communicate regularly with members of the New York state legislature and the governor to provide and receive recommendations regarding effective gun violence prevention policy and programs.

(b) The head of the office shall be the director who shall be appointed by the commissioner. The director shall oversee the development and execution of the objectives of the office as established under this section. The director shall hire staff to execute the office's functions, as sufficient government funding permits, including but not limited to three units:

(i) administration unit to manage budget, human resources, grant and contract management and coordination;

(ii) planning and special projects unit; and

(iii) research and evaluation unit.

(c) The office shall issue an annual report including, but not limited to, information on the state of gun violence in the state, recommendations for policy and programmatic initiatives to reduce gun violence in the state, and a description of the efforts of the office to carry out the duties and objectives of the office 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 provide support and guidance to the office of gun violence prevention and make recommendations regarding the development and execution of the office's responsibilities, strategies, and functions. Such advisory council shall be chaired by the director and shall include no fewer than twelve additional members selected by the director, including but not limited to state, community, and national policy and public health experts as well as a broad range of stakeholders including:

(i) a survivor of gun violence.

(ii) a senior-level representative from 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 or a representative designee.
(vii) a public school teacher who works in a school district disproportionately impacted by gun violence.
(viii) a a young person age eighteen or under who has held a community or advocacy leadership role.
(ix) a veteran.
(x) representatives from relevant state and local government agencies involved and engaged in gun violence prevention initiatives or policy-making.
(xi) public safety/law enforcement professionals.
(xii) a senior-level representative of a victim service provider.
(b) The office shall convene and consult the advisory council on a quarterly basis for the purpose of discussing any of the council's recommendations regarding the development and execution of the office's responsibilities, strategies, and functions. At the discretion of the director, the office may convene and communicate with the advisory counsel as determined to be necessary.
(c) To comprehensively address gun violence in New York state, the following state executive agencies shall collaborate with the office to support prevention, intervention, and policy implementation strategies including but not limited to the department of health, department of education, department of labor, office of mental health, office of children and family services, office of victim services, office of temporary and disability assistance, office for the prevention of domestic violence, office of the New York state attorney general, division of homeland security, state police, and all other divisions and offices within the division of criminal justice services.

§ 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.