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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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**H.B. 830**  
**136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. LaRe and Brewer

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### SUMMARY

- Establishes the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and requires the Division of Criminal Justice Services (CJS) to administer the program.
- Allows funding for crime reduction strategies such as place network investigations, focused deterrence, hot spot policing, and crime gun intelligence centers.
- Permits the use of award funds for training, overtime, support activities, and purchasing technology, analytical tools, and equipment to reduce violent crimes.
- Requires CJS to review, score, and recommend awards as well as make the criteria used to review, score, and recommend awards publicly available.
- Recommends that grant awards should supplement and not replace a local government's existing obligations for ongoing services.
- Requires CJS to monitor grantees for financial and programmatic compliance.
- Requires CJS to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly summarizing awards, strategies funded, geographic distribution, and statewide and grantee-level outcomes.
- Requires that at least 20% of all awarded funds each fiscal year be awarded to clearance rate improvement projects and allows the DPS Director to waive the percentage requirement if the office certifies that the statewide clearance rate for crimes during the recent year was 75% or higher.
- Requires agencies who receive grants to provide reports to CJS that include information for each violent crime reported to the agency during the grant term period.

- Requires CJS to enter into an agreement with a research partner to collect and analyze data to assess program outcomes and to submit a report to the standing committees of the General Assembly that address criminal justice matters by December 31, 2026.

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## **DETAILED ANALYSIS**

### **Violent crime reduction grant program**

The bill creates the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for the purpose of awarding grants to eligible applicants to reduce and prevent violent crime through promising or proven strategies. The bill requires the Division of Criminal Justice Services (CJS) to administer the program.<sup>1</sup>

### **Authorized uses of grant funds**

The bill allows grantees to use award funds only for the following purposes:<sup>2</sup>

- To create, implement, and expand violent crime reduction strategies such as place network investigations, focused deterrence, hot spot policing, and crime gun intelligence centers;
- To implement or expand the following five core strategies of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's comprehensive gang model:
  - Community mobilization;
  - Opportunity provision;
  - Social intervention;
  - Violent crime suppression;
  - Organizational change and development.
- To purchase technology as part of a larger violent crime reduction strategy.
- To provide overtime for personnel directly involved in developing and implementing a violent crime reduction strategy;
- To purchase equipment directly related to and necessary for implementation of a violent crime reduction strategy;
- To develop and provide training on a specific violent crime reduction strategy or on technology to support the strategy;
- To receive technical assistance to create, implement, and expand a violent crime reduction strategy;

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 5502.72(B).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 5502.72(C).

- To purchase analytical tools and analytical support to better understand and respond to violence occurring in the community and assess the effectiveness of the violence reduction strategy.
- To address violent crime by other means approved by CJS.

## **Recommending, monitoring, and reporting grant awards**

The bill requires CJS to review, score, and recommend awards as well as make the criteria used to review, score, and recommend awards publicly available. CJS is also required to prioritize awards for promising or proven strategies that have undergone a causal methodology evaluation when recommending awards.<sup>3</sup> The DPS Director is required to approve final awards upon the recommendation of the CJS Executive Director.<sup>4</sup> The bill requires CJS to set each grant term and prohibits a grant term from exceeding 24 months.<sup>5</sup>

The bill provides that generally grant awards should supplement and not supplant a local government's existing obligation for ongoing services as of the application date, except as permitted by rule in cases of documented hardship.<sup>6</sup>

The bill requires CJS to monitor grantees for financial and programmatic compliance and allows CJS to do the following:<sup>7</sup>

- Impose corrective actions;
- Suspend or terminate grants;
- Recover funds for noncompliance.

CJS is required to adopt rules to implement the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program, including application procedures and deadlines, scoring criteria, reporting schedules, performance metrics, and fiscal requirements.<sup>8</sup> CJS is also required to submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly summarizing awards, strategies funded, geographic distribution, and statewide and grantee level outcomes relative to performance metrics developed by rules no later than October 1 of each year. The bill requires CJS to post the report on its public website.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 5502.72(D)(1).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 5502.72(D)(2).

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 5502.72(D)(3).

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 5502.72(E).

<sup>7</sup> R.C. 5502.72(F).

<sup>8</sup> R.C. 5502.72(G).

<sup>9</sup> R.C. 5502.72(H).

## Clearance rate improvement projects

The bill requires that at least 20% of the amounts awarded from the Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program in each fiscal year be awarded to clearance rate improvement projects unless the DPS Director waives the requirement. The bill allows the Director to waive the percentage requirement only if the office certifies, in a public notice posted by January 31 of that fiscal year, that the statewide violent crime clearance rate for crimes that occurred during the most recent calendar year where data is available was at or above 75%.<sup>10</sup>

## Annual reporting requirements

The bill requires each law enforcement agency that receives a grant under the Violent Crime Reduction Program to provide a report each year to CJS. The report is required to include the following information for each violent crime reported to the law enforcement agency during the grant term period:<sup>11</sup>

1. The name of the offense;
2. The date the offense was reported to the law enforcement agency;
3. The location of the offense;
4. The type of force or weapon used, if applicable;
5. The race or ethnicity, gender, and age of any victim or victims, if available;
6. If the offense was cleared, all of the following:
  - a. The date the offense was cleared;
  - b. Whether the offense was cleared by arrest or cleared by exceptional means;
  - c. If the offense was cleared by exceptional means, which exceptional circumstance justified clearing the offense by exceptional means;
  - d. The race or ethnicity, gender, and age of the offender or offenders, if available.

## Program evaluation and public reporting

The bill requires CJS to enter into an agreement with a qualified research partner to collect and analyze data to assess program outcomes. The evaluation is required, to the extent feasible and appropriate, to make use of experimental or quasi-experimental designs that allow for the strongest possible causal inference with respect to outcomes. CJS, in collaboration with the qualified research partner, must submit a report to the chairpersons of the standing committees of the Senate and House of Representatives entrusted with matters concerning

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<sup>10</sup> R.C. 5502.72(I).

<sup>11</sup> R.C. 5502.72(J).

criminal justice not later than December 31, 2026. The bill requires CJS to make the report publicly available on its website.<sup>12</sup>

## Definitions

The bill defines the following terms:<sup>13</sup>

- **“Division of criminal justice services”** means the Division of Criminal Justice Services of the Department of Public Safety.
- **“Eligible applicant”** means a police department of a municipal corporation or a county sheriff’s office. An eligible applicant may join with one or more other eligible applicants to submit a joint application.
- **“Violent crime”** means offenses categorized as violent in the national incident-based reporting system operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and may include nonfatal firearm offenses and other violent offenses.
- **“Promising or proven strategy”** means a strategy identified in peer-reviewed research, federal guidance, or another credible evaluation as likely to reduce violent crimes, including those designated by CJS.
- **“Clearance by exception”** or **“cleared by exceptional means”** means the law enforcement agency to which a violent crime was reported has done all of the following:
  - Clearly and definitively established the identity of one or more individuals suspected of commission of the violent crime;
  - Obtained sufficient probable cause to arrest the individual or individuals suspected of commission of the violent crime;
  - Obtained sufficient information to effectuate the arrest of the individual or individuals suspected of commission of the violent crime, but a reason outside the control of the law enforcement agency exists that prevents the law enforcement agency from arresting the individual or individuals.
- **“Clearance by arrest”** or **“cleared by arrest”** means an individual was arrested and charged with committing the violent crime or alleged to be a delinquent child for committing the violent crime.
- **“Clearance rate”** means the quotient obtained by dividing the sum of the number of incidents of violent crime that have a clearance by arrest and the number of incidents of violent crime that have a clearance by exception by the total number of incidents of violent crime reported to the law enforcement agency during a single calendar year.

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<sup>12</sup> R.C. 5502.72(K).

<sup>13</sup> R.C. 5502.72(A).

- **“Clearance rate improvement project”** means a project, the primary purpose of which is to increase clearance rates for violent crimes, including the following:
  - Investigative staffing and overtime dedicated to clearing violent crime;
  - Information acquired and entered into a crime gun intelligence center or the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, including correlation, lead triage, and lead management;
  - Forensic capacity, including ballistics and DNA directly tied to violent crimes;
  - Case-management systems, real-time crime center support, and analytics that track leads and link cases;
  - Backlog and cold-case surge operations for violent crimes;
  - Upgrading record management systems to comply with reporting requirements;
  - Ensuring compliance with reporting requirements.
- **“Office of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention”** means the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention established by the “Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974,” 34 United States Code 11101 *et seq.*, as amended.
- **“Qualified research partner”** means an organization with demonstrated and substantial experience conducting rigorous evaluations of program effectiveness, including the use of well-implemented randomized control trials or other evidence-based research methodologies that allow for strong causal inferences.

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	04-21-26

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